

The WEEKLY REPORT

ANORAKS

The First with the News in Print

No. 197.....7th February 1988.

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There never seems to be a dull moment in the world of free radio, and this week has been no exception, both at sea and on land. The big story though, has to be the return of the former Laser vessel, m.v. Communicator to the River Stour, near Harwich, from where only 14 months ago, she managed to 'escape' and get back to sea. Plenty of newspaper cuttings have been received, from the East Anglian papers, and although most will be featured in next week's cuttings, the biggest one, which includes an up to date picture of the ship at Shotley Pier, is included in this report. Some of the facts in the early newspaper stories were a little in- accurate, as often happens with a rushed story. We hope our little piece inside, has corrected a few of these, although some dubious happenings seem to be occurring on the ship at this present moment.

RADIO CALL: Action to clear the airwaves of pirate radio stations was announced last night by John Butcher, Under-Secretary of state for trade and industry. He said £400,000 was being invested in the Radio Investigation Service to clear the frequencies of unlicensed users. But he appealed to pirate stations to stop their broadcasts, following the announcement by Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, in January that local stations can bid for the right to broadcast legally under the expansion of commercial community radio.

On the land - based free radio scene, after a relatively quiet time for the London stations last week, DTI officials are obviously having one of their occasional trips to the North, as many stations have been raided this week, after a relatively long period without any problems. They seemed to move up the country as the week went on, being in Nottingham and Birmingham in the early part, and then arriving on Merseyside to do a few jobs towards the weekend. It was interesting to note a cutting from the 'Written Replies' section, in the 2nd February edition of The Independent, (reproduced alongside), in which John Butcher announced that £400,000 was being invested in the Radio Investigation Service, to clear the frequencies of un- licensed users. Perhaps the raids this week, are being paid for by the new investment. He also appealed for the 'pirates' to cease broadcasting, following Douglas Hurd's announcement. It is to be hoped that this is not a case of 'here we go again'!

Many thanks for all your views on the new radio proposals, which have been received this past week. **WEEKLY REPORT & CUTTINGS** is produced, printed and posted out each Sunday, from Blackpool. To become a subscriber, the following weekly rates apply..... First Class (U.K.) and EEC countries, including Eire, 40p..... Second Class, (U.K. only), 35p..... EEC countries (Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, etc.), 45p..... Elsewhere (via Air Mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate.

ADVERTISE IN WEEKLY REPORT. A full page advert inside the report itself will cost just £20.00 and will reach about 750 subscribers at home and abroad. A half page will cost £11.00, with a quarter, just £6.00. Simply send us your copy on white paper, any size, along with the remittance, and leave the rest to us.

THE ANORAKS U.K. INFO-LINE is now back to normal, as many of you will no doubt realise, following Steve's holiday break. To hear a three minute regularly up- dated message, call (0795) 511118. If you have news for us, then call (0795) 511119 and leave your message after the whistle tone.

NEW MERCHANDISE. We had hoped to have been able to offer a set of photos of the return of the m.v. Communicator to Harwich, but, unfortunately, things were against us and we were not able to get hold of the films and select a set in time for this week's report. However, watch this space, as they say, next week. Alternatively, check out the info- line, as we are likely to mention it there initially..... Excellent news on the loop/ frame aerial front. All parts are once again, in stock, and any lengthy delays in despatch of these items have now been overcome. They can still take up to ten days to reach you, however, so, be a little patient on this one. Despite us having to pay out increased costs for raw materials, we will honour all orders for aerials, up until the end of the month, at the old price of £25.00 for the basic model, or £28.00 for the de- luxe model with the fine tuning facility. New prices, from 1st March, will be £30.00 and £35.00 respectively. Order one now, amazing results have been achieved with their use.

Please note, when paying for goods, we take Access also, and our Postgiro account number is 12 141 6909, for the benefit of other Girobank account holders (free transfer of money from one account to another, even from abroad).

NEW ARRIVALS. A rather excellent newcomer (to us) arrived first, this week... **Frekvens, Den Nya Radio- och TV- Tidningen, Nr. 3/1987.** It is a superb quality, 44 x A4 page publication about radio and TV, out every two months. Although written completely in Swedish, it should have some interest for readers in Norway, Denmark and the Swedish speakers of Finland, also. The magazine is packed with interesting features (and good quality photos), such as an interview with the legendary U.S. deejay, Dr. Don Rose, and one with S.I.B.C.'s, Ian Anderson. It also covers Swedish local and community stations, British radio, French radio and shortwave. Frekvens costs 90 Kronor or £10.00 Sterling and that's for six issues per year, from Mediaforeningen RTV, P.O. Box 2081, S- 145 02 Norsborg, Sweden. Postgiro number is 16 04 81- 8..... **Radiotelex, Issue 117, 4 x A5** pages containing the latest short wave logs, news and QSL

survey. Details from RT, c/o Postfach 10 37 71, D - 2800 Bremen 1, West Germany..... **Now Radio, Issue 45.** 28 x A5 pages of radio news across the board here, although the proposed changes in U.K. radio take up the greatest part of the magazine. Details are from P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants. NN16 ONW..... **CLCG Magazine, Issue 127.** A stapled wad of A4 sheets of news from shortwave, FM, offshore radio in Europe generally. Details from CLCG Magazine, Postfach 54 01 01, D - 4100 Duisburg 11, West Germany.

TAPE OFFER. A slight oversight in last week's report gave us two Tape 152's. In fact, **RJR** is actually 152, and **Enterprise FM** is Tape 153. We apologise for this confusing mistake. This week, with Tape 154, we start off, out in the North Sea, with a recent recording of **Radio Caroline** who are still on very low power. James Day is your host on this particular one. He was programming during the afternoon of 1st February as the seas were beginning to get a little rough..... London is our next port of call, and Tape 155 gives you a chance to hear **Soul FM**, yet another of the many black music stations in the capital. Recorded on the evening of 28th January, this one, does actually broadcast more of a 'soul' format than the others, who cover disco, rapping, reggae etc..... Finally this time around, we travel across the 'wet bit' to the Irish Republic, for a chance to hear one of the newer stations in Co. Dublin, **Southside 95.** On this recording, you can hear the well travelled Peter Madison, and one of his breakfast shows, which for oldies fans, is a must. This is Tape 156. All the above recordings are 90 minutes in length and cost just £2.00 each. Please note: When ordering tapes along with other items from our sales list, it is very unlikely that you will receive everything in one parcel, by return. The tapes will very likely be sent separately and at a later date, as a backlog does build up from time to time, especially at a period when a popular tape is being offered. On the subject of popular ones, we find that the American tapes tend to be more in demand than others, not unexpectedly. Our best sellers to date include, apart from the Americans, **Caroline North** (tapes 84, 85 and 86) and **Caroline** on Christmas Day

'87 (tape 141). All tapes are still available and a four page booklet listing same, along with another dozen 'specials', is available on request.

GENERAL. Reading through other publications, it would appear that excitement is building up regarding the long awaited Laser 558 L.P. from EAP. Having said that, the item is not yet available, and when it is actually in stock here, we shall say so, and offer it, by the usual 'return of post' arrangement. **PLEASE SEND NO MONEY IN ADVANCE FOR THIS DOUBLE L.P.**

A week never passes by without receiving a few letters, the writer saying that he or she has only just found out about us. If you know anyone who you think would be interested in what we do and sell, send us their name and address and we will send them a sample WR, a sales list and a 'Tape Offers' list, absolutely free of charge.

News and information may be freely taken out of Weekly Report and used on radio programmes or in other publications, provided 'Anoraks U.K.' are duly credited for said item.

A question is posed regarding the situation in Portugal.... It appears that few problems occur with the setting up of a 'pirate' operation, but having said that, we are only aware of one, involving U.K. personnel... It is Solar Radio Algarve, 55 Centro Comercial, Vila- Magna- Montechord, 8200 Albufeira, Algarve, Portugal. Julian Cole is the man to write to here.

Another question asks if the m.v. Nannell is still in Santander, Northern Spain.... As far as we are aware, it is, although reports recently from the area have been non-existent.

Finally in this section, it was one year ago last Tuesday (2nd) since Caroline Overdrive was last heard. Thanks, of course, to Stuart for reminding us.

AVAILABLE. Former Voice of Peace presenter/engineer requires work, at home or abroad, disco or radio... Apply RM, Box No. 4896, Greater London House, Hamstead Road, London NW1 7QZ.

WANTED. **U.F.O. by Bolland and Bolland** (late '70's), state price and condition, DR, P.O. Box 539, Blackpool FY1 4RE.

WANTED. Volunteers (from anywhere) to send in taped shows to a station in Dublin. Further details from, or demos to, Rhythm FM, 16 Mount Pleasant Square, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Eire.

RADIO STATION NEWS....IRELAND.

A couple of un- expected openings presented themselves in the early part of the week, and a few surprises resulted... On Monday, a telephone call from a nearby reporter told us that our local ILR station was off the air, and had been since about 06:00, leaving 999kHz. (and adjacent channels) free for DX- ing. At about 09:20, we switched across to 999kHz. and noted quite loud popular music. Further listening confirmed an Irish station, which we took to be Northern Star from Monaghan Town. Our guess was wrong when the station identified as **Midway Radio** from Mullingar in Co. Westmeath. At 09:31 however, the music was stifled by a blank carrier being switched on, to be followed only a minute or so later, by even more music. The latter signal overpowered the former, suggesting far greater power, but even so, the two could be separated with the help of a directional loop, which confirmed different directions. We had very little time to wait before the station signed on as **Northern Star** and announced the frequencies on AM and FM. Our rare little opening did not last much longer, however, for at 10:00, the local station returned. No doubt, transmitter maintenance was being carried out, although we did not stay tuned to ascertain if this was indeed the case. On Tuesday, whilst listening to Don Allen on **Erneside Community Radio**, it was announced that the medium wave service on 1251kHz. would have to close down whilst some repairs were carried out by the E.S.B. (the electric supply people). Listeners were asked to tune to 97.8MHz., only, suggesting that the power cuts were at the site housing the main AM and FM transmitters and not at the studio. After it left the air, checks were made on the channel, but local power- lines (and a rainy morning) ensured we could hear very little, other than 'fizzing'. Later in the morning, however, the power being transmitted along the lines took a short break, as did the rain, and music could be heard very faintly in the ether. After some close listening, we were pleased to hear **Premier County Radio** identify itself. This station is based in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary and a telephone number was given out, (052) 24722. This is a rare one also, for us, as **Erneside C.R.** is quite strong most times. The

latter duly returned later in the afternoon, with more power than ever, in fact the station has never been heard as loud and clear as it is at present.

We were commenting in the week, that any Irish country music lover, living on the West coast of Britain, with a directional aerial and plenty of time on his hands, could have a field day, listening to the dozens of country stations available to him on MW. One in particular we have in mind, is **Longford Community Radio** on 1071kHz. This station puts in a good signal most days here and is only one of the many throughout the country, outside Dublin, playing this style of music. **Carlow Local Radio** were also fairly well audible during the week, on 1359kHz., despite 'local' Manx Radio, on the next channel. There was no trace, whatsoever, of **Tallaght Community Radio**, on this channel.

DUBLIN. It remains so quiet here, it is infuriating! Everyone seems to be operating normally and generally getting on with the job in hand, i.e. broadcasting. All three top stations have been logged extensively. **Q 102** is suffering from terrible interference here, from **Cavan Community Radio** on the same channel (819kHz.). In fact, the latter is almost as loud as Q at times. We are still unable to listen on FM, due to the continuing spell of low pressure over the U.K. **Energy Power 103** is by far the strongest, even at night, on 738kHz. **Sunshine 101** is good on 846kHz., despite two 'locals', either side, but not so good on 531kHz. Having said that, Sunshine is predominant on 531kHz. throughout daylight hours. Whatever happened to the Fiat/ Q 102 'Eye in the Sky' service. The only people to mention it now are Energy, who strangely credit their traffic reports to a taxi firm and 'Fiat/ Eye in the Sky'. Capital Radio, the long-running album station in the city, are reported missing since Friday. The station seems to have been there forever, sticking to its original format, without ever approaching 'superpirate' status. More recently, the station has been only on FM, 95.8, with a link on about 93.9MHz., although in the early days, it was on medium wave, 1035kHz., later 1017kHz. A report on the Radio West free radio show, told us that the station had plans to return at 17:00 today, following a move of studio location from Rathmines to another equally un- announced location. We assume that the contact address will remain... 30/31 Wicklow Street, Dublin 2.

Co. WICKLOW. After a spell of continuous broadcasting on 1602kHz., **Viking 105** has been missing this past week. However; on checking today, it had returned, as normal. No reason is known for its absence. We assume that normal programmes will have gone out on 104.8MHz., during the MW absence.

Co. LOUTH. A quick note from **Boyneside Radio** in Drogheda reports the same lack of news.... Bad weather has prevented the station from moving the FM's to 97.9 and 98.3MHz., as mentioned before. They hope to carry out this work very soon. A new medium wave site has been secured for the 1332kHz. service, just West of Navan, in a bog. Again, this work awaits better weather. The 1233kHz. Northern service received a little boost recently and this has been noticed here, with a generally better signal being heard. The 1260kHz. service of **Radio Carousel** is still missing, although no reasons are known. The FM on 99.25MHz.mono, is reported as strong, as is the FM signal of their local competitor, **Telstar**, on 88.3MHz. The latter is equally strong on 1197kHz., with a dominance predominating during daylight hours, over other co- channel operators. Finally, the Boyneside Radio court case comes up later this month, after being adjourned from last December. The station hope to get all their confiscated gear back.

BOYNESIDE RADIO

Broadcasting all over the East Coast of Ireland

Broadcasting House
Donaghy's Mill
DROGHEDA Advertising Telephone 041 - 37242



Co. WESTMEATH. The free radio show on **Radio West** this morning, featured a new presenter, Willie Hart, new only to the show and not to the station, we must add.

Co. MONAGHAN. **Kiss FM** are reported to be back on the air, following a break. They are announcing an address now, but as yet, it has not been noted by our reporter in

Dundalk. We cannot help here, as we have yet to receive the station on 103.7MHz. Low power and poor reception conditions have contributed, of course. A few extra jingles have been noted, we are told, but we understand that proper programmes have yet to emerge.

Co. GALWAY. According to a report, Twigs FM changed to **West Coast Radio** because the boss was fed up!! It sounds more like a wind-up though, because **Coast 103** are a main operator in the city, and **Radio West** from Mullingar have a relay there, so a name made out of two existing operators, can only cause confusion. The frequencies are 100.1 and 98MHz. Also active, **KFM** on 99.0MHz., **County Sound** on 101MHz., and the occasional oldies station, **Swingin' Radio Impulse** on 96.0 MHz. **Coast 103** tell us that they may be moving studios within the existing building shortly. Their current line-up reads.... 06:00 Chris Ashford, 09:00 Tony Henry, 12:00 Shane Martin, 15:00 Keith York, 18:00 onwards, various. Recent presenter on the station, Ritchie O'Shea, can now be heard overnight at weekends, on **Energy** in Dublin. The station in Ballinasloe apparently now identifies as **Kandy Magic 103**. It only operates on FM. They sold the AM to **Galway District Radio** in Loughree, but as yet, it has not been noted in action.

LAND - BASED STATIONS...LONDON.

LONDON WEEKEND SURVEY.

29th January - 1st February 1988.

'This weekend, touched down on 29 stations of which 7 were in stereo.

New :- PRS (90.4).

Missing / not heard :- NMR, the Indian on 89.6, Ram Jam, Clockwork, Sangam, Faze 1, RFL, GRL, Touch FM and Girls FM.

Returned :- WNK (102.85).

As far as can be ascertained, there has been little or no activity from the DoTI people this weekend. Maybe news will come of high activity in other parts of the count. The respite has been welcomed in a still damp London, where the potholes in the road have turned into miniature lakes.

The facts surrounding the resurrection of Horizon Radio a few weeks back, are substantially true. Only the name has been changed to protect J-FM. They are reputedly on - air, in East London, on low power. The story of how the names came to be switched was convoluted, but, a superb illustration of 'Chinese Whispers'. The sources, who confirmed in good faith, only did so, as their sources had misunderstood what they were confirming!

NMR (89.6) are still actively seeking people to fill vacant spots as DJ's or newscasters - trainees considered. Ring 01 833 0978 for information. DJ let-downs are the only thing holding NMR back from going back on air, although late unconfirmed news, suggests that a transmitter may have been lifted during the down time.

Heard on Friday (29th) on tests from **Hits FM** (105.5) was Clare Mansfield. Is this where the long promised new rock service, DC - FM from R - FM co - founders Dave Fuller and Clare Mansfield, is likely to emanate from? Saturday saw Hits overcoming their problems of vandalised transmission sites, and, they made it on air for a full day, with power that reached well out into Surrey and Sussex.

Raiders FM (105.25) has been the home of Clare Mansfield for the last few months, and had just moved her into the prime Saturday evening spot. Raiders have been experiencing siting problems recently, and seem to have spent most of January in test mode. This week was no exception, and they did not come on air until just after 5pm. But at 8pm, this changed over to taped programming to bring back a feeling of normality. However, this was not Clare Mansfield as had been expected. Sunday saw an almost exact re-run of Saturday, even playing the same tapes at the same time. Hopefully, Raiders will get their site problems sorted out in the near future, as London needs the diversity of programmes provided by them.

Where have I heard that voice before dept? Christopher England was heard sitting in with the Magnificent Seven on **R-FM** (94.25) on Sunday.

LWR veteran founder member, Fuzzy Dee, moved over to associate station **Roots FM** (93.15), where he was heard hosting a test transmission in his normal LWR time slot of Saturday, between 6 and 8. Messages coming in over his pager, indicated a wide reception area. Heathrow to the West. Crawley in the South, and Watford in the North. No messages were heard from East London. Fuzzy Dee

was back to his **LWR** (92.2 - stereo) roots on Sunday night after his brief sojourn up the dial. He revealed that **Roots FM** would not be the reggae station that name implied, but would cover a much wider spectrum of black music. Included would be Soca, Jazz and Gospel. Gospel has also featured a number of times recently at the weekend on **RTR** (90.25) recently. A gospel service, presumably on tape, was heard at five am on Sunday morning, from a Lewisham church.

Roots have probably the strongest signal on the air at the moment, with their LWR cohorts, **Fresh FM** (103.35) and **TKO** (102.4 - stereo) coming in a close second. **Time Radio** (103.75) remain in mono, with a signal well down on that which is normally expected of them. **Time**, have actually missed air time this weekend, as they went off air on Sunday night. It is not known whether this is for engineering work or because of a bust. **Time** near neighbours, **JBC** (104.3 - stereo), having not experienced a bust for some time now, are coming through loud and clear, in stereo, over most of London. Close by, geographically speaking, are **Traffic Jam** (97.9), who now have a strong stable signal. Programming has broadened its base from the roots ragamuffin style of old, into a much wider spectrum of black music.

West London's CDR (88.65) have not managed any consistent programming since the beginning of January. Any number of dead carrier waves have been heard, and the odd transmission, one even in stereo, but little else. The station, as such, does not accept advertising, but has sought sponsorship, without much success it must be said. Originally set up as an experiment in community access radio, they have had probably the widest programming of all the privateer operators. This week followed the pattern of the last few weeks - lots of dead carrier waves and a highly distorted low power signal which was difficult to listen to.

Heard for the first time on Monday evening from a presumed North East London base, was a newcomer to the ever increasing number of initials which litter the 90MHz. sector. With **RTR** (90.25) and **Passion** (90.65) missing from Monday morning, **PRS** were heard loud and clear, claiming to be 24 hours per day, but they were missing in the early hours of Tuesday.

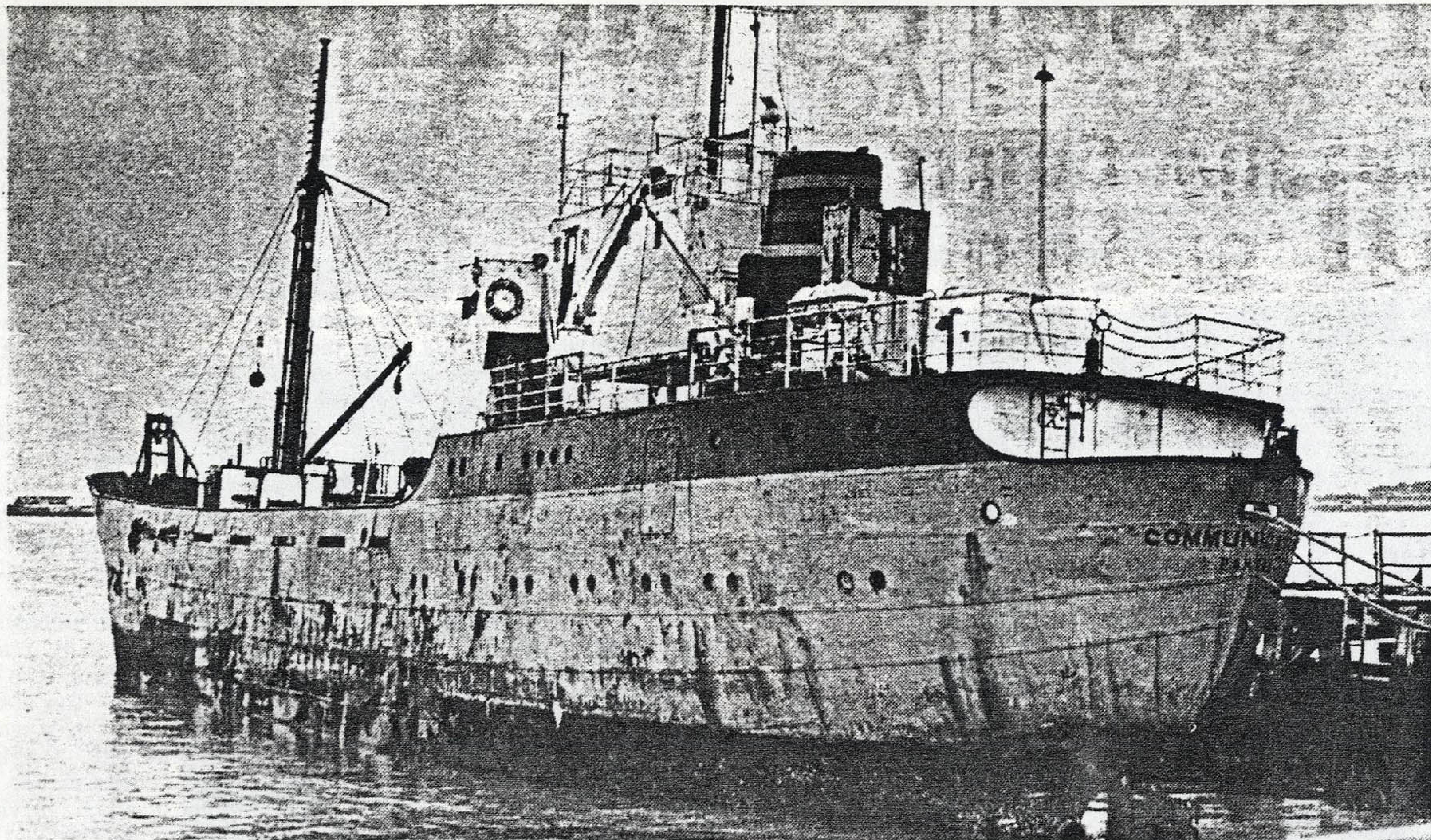
The early hours of Tuesday morning, also saw the return of **RJR** splinter group **WNK** (102.85) in test tape mode. **WNK** have not been heard since October, when their transmitter was lifted under mysterious circumstances, and it was thought that they were now a dead duck.

More next week'. Thanks, Sid.

LONDON UP-DATE.

The DTI seem to have been relatively quiet in the London area this past week. This could be possibly due, as we mentioned in the opening paragraph, to them taking their 'show on the road' and having a go at stations operating North of London, who have had a good run lately. Only **Rock to Rock** (90.2) seems to have been missing for any lengthy period this week and indeed, it was this station, which Sid mentioned last week, that was being hardest hit. As a result, the following long list of stations have been logged this past weekend.... **LGR** (88.4), **Groove- FM** (89.7), **RJR** (90.0), **PRS Radio** (90.4), **Passion Radio** (90.6), **Sina** (90.9), **Soul- FM** (91.0), **Sky- FM** (91.7), **LWR** (92.2), **Studio- FM** (92.7), **Solar 93** (93.0), **Roots- FM** (93.2), **Kiss- FM** (94.0), **RFM** (94.3), **K- Jazz** (94.5), **City Radio** (94.5), **Traffic Jam** (97.9), **TKO** (102.4), **WNK** (102.8), **Fresh- FM** (103.3), **Time Radio** (103.7), **Greek Community Radio** (104.4) and **Raiders** (105.2MHz.). **Time Radio** continue to operate on much reduced power. **City Radio** operates all week on 94.5MHz., but on Sunday, is blocked out over part of London, by **K- Jazz**, who operate on the same frequency. **RFM** seem to have been un-hindered this week, on their frequency, which is sometimes occupied by **Starpoint**. **CD - 10/24** has not been heard for some weeks now and we assume the relationship with **TKO** is finished, which is a pity. As a point of interest, our correspondent, this week, did a few calculations of the stations on the air and found that 75% were all playing a similar black music format. The only exceptions being the Greek and Asian community stations, **RFM** and **Raiders**, who play more pop rock, and **K- Jazz**.

We have a report from Tim in London, that in the early hours of Sunday 31st January, the transmitter of **Hits- FM** was stolen by persons unknown, but not by the DTI. **Hits- FM** were therefore not on air last night, but hope to be back on Saturday 13th February. They have a new address... c/o 7 Eden Way, North Brickhill, Bedford. The station operates on 105.5MHz.FM.



The MV Communicator berthed at Shotley pier.

Ex-Laser pirate radio ship is to be scrapped

FORMER pirate radio ship the MV Communicator is to be scrapped.

The ship, which had been due to start broadcasting two new illegal stations before Christmas, lost its anchor in heavy seas and went into Harwich under its own steam

yesterday.

It was later towed to Shotley ready to be broken up.

The 489-ton Communicator, which used to be the base for Radio Laser, has not been on the air for nine months.

When the ship arrived at Parkeston Quay it was inspected by Department of

Trade and Industry officials. They were hoping to go back on board later to disable any radio equipment. Customs officers have also been on board.

The EADT was yesterday unable to contact the owner, a London-based development company called Able

Wood, but a source close to the company said the Communicator's captain had been told to take the ship to a cheap anchorage so it could be scrapped.

He said the original intention had been for two new stations to broadcast from the ship starting last November, but when American backers found out the stations would be illegal they pulled their money out.

End of Communicator

THE demise of the MV Communicator ends a long and turbulent chapter in the history of pirate radio.

The colourful saga began in August, 1983, when the Gardline Seeker from Lowestoft was bought and fitted out for broadcasting by an American consortium. It was re-registered in Panama and given the name Communicator.

By December the ship was anchored in the North Sea, but the technical problems which dogged it throughout its life as a pirate radio base began when balloons sent up to hoist the station's antenna blew away.

In May, 1984, Radio Laser started broadcasting pop chart music played by American disc

jockeys from the Communicator.

By September Laser was claiming more than five million listeners, but advertising revenue was still hard to come by and rumours of cash short-ages began.

The following year was the time of Laser's greatest success with almost continuous pop broadcasting attracting a vast following, particularly in East Anglia and London.

In August, 1985, the Department of Trade and Industry began a costly blockade in a bid to starve Laser and its rival pirate Radio Caroline off the air.

By the autumn the campaign was beginning to bite. Supplies were low and financial prob-

lems were looming larger.

In November the Communicator gave up and came into port at Harwich to be impounded by the DTI.

It was sold by the Admiralty six months later to clear debts run up by the American owners. The new buyer was businessman Mr. Ray Anderson, based in Frinton.

The Communicator sailed again in November, 1986, apparently for a rendezvous with more new American owners.

● Radio Caroline, which was off the air after the antenna on its ship the Ross Revenge blew down in gales last year, is now broadcasting again, although still on reduced power.

Sell equipment

It was then planned to take the Communicator to the Mediterranean and broadcast to holidaymakers in the Balearic Islands off Spain, but this plan was dropped when the owners found out it was unfit for the voyage.

They decided to scrap the vessel and sell the radio equipment.

There were also financial problems arising from the deal in which Able Wood bought the ship.

The source said the ship had been properly maintained by the owners and captain and crew had been paid up to date.

THE OFFSHORE STATIONS.

m.v. Communicator. Well, yet another chapter has now closed in the eventful life of this vessel, once the home of Laser 558. The above cutting from the East Anglian Daily Times of 4th February 1988, does seem to go a little far however, by saying that the ship went to Shotley to be 'broken up'. The fact that it was berthed next to a scrapyard may well have inspired that remark. The problems started in heavy seas, during the early part of last week, when the ship is understood to have been left with no anchor, and as a result, was having to steam about the North Sea, using up valuable fuel. In addition to only having several hours of fuel remaining, there was apparently some problem with the ship's engine. The captain brought the m.v. Communicator into the River Stour, where she was moored up against Shotley Quay, as she had no anchor available for her to moor in the centre of the river. Being at this accessible location for a couple of days, meant that many readers had chance to go and have a look, which indeed they did, and in some cases even managed to get on board. One visitor mentioned that on Friday morning, some studio equipment was in the process of being taken off the ship, prior to it moving to a mooring up river. What will actually happen to the vessel now is unknown. There are stories going around that it will be sold for scrap (the removing of equipment could support this one), and others say that there is nothing to hold the ship in port, and it could go right back out to sea. However the chances had been there over the past year for the station to get back on, and these were lost, so who knows whether it will ever broadcast again. On Friday lunchtime, the ship apparently moved up river to a point near Erwardon, more or less where it was before, but late news arriving as we print, from a correspondent living nearby, informs us that the ship has moved from that position now. He tells us that it was there yesterday, but on checking this morning, had gone, and despite several attempts, he is unable to locate it at this point in time, despite extremely good visibility. Possibilities are that it could be alongside Parkeston Quay, as he is unable to see traffic there, or maybe even further up river, towards Ipswich. The fact that no aerals are sticking up from the ship does nothing to help locate the thing at times like these.

RADIO CAROLINE. Whilst the Communicator was having problems, the crew on the Ross Revenge finally had some

success in putting up the rear temporary mast properly, on the fifth attempt. This occurred during the early part of the week. For the most part, the station was operating 24 hours per day, during the past week, with a line - up of... 05:00 Peter Philips... 09:00 Mike Dixon... 13:00 James Day... 17:00 Steve Masters... 21:00 Rowena Wild... 01:00 Richard Lee. 01:00 on Tuesday morning, saw an early closedown, but Peter Philips opened up again as normal at 05:00 later in the morning. At 06:12, there was an announced closure, and Caroline returned to the air at 06:32 following a tuning note, and Peter Philips programmed through until 09:00, at which time Mike Dixon took over as normal. Sometime between 12:05 and 13:00, the station left the air, and was still off the air at 15:10. James Day was back on the air by 16:50, but had obviously not been on long, judging by his comment that it had been a short show. Wednesday (3rd February), still saw the 24 hour schedule, but a change around in the afternoon, by James Day and Steve Masters, enabled James to be on the deck to help with the aerial system. James returned to host the 'drive - time' at 17:00. The rear mast and relevant rigging now seems to be in place properly, and we can now only await the new system to be slung up, and higher power to be switched on. Apparently, Mike Dixon announced on the air, that to celebrate the aligning of the tower, they would be flying a pair of underpants from the top! The line - up returned to normal for Thursday and Friday, although a strange incident occurred at 22:00 on Thursday, during Rowena's show, when Mike Dixon appeared to start his own show at 22:10, but then Rowena returned after only one link by Mike. Saturday and Sunday saw the usual shuffle around of programmes, putting James Day on breakfast, Peter Philips mid- morning, and Mike Dixon in the afternoon, with the rest of the day un- changed..

The Caroline Rock Shows continue to be heavily advertised on the station, with another gig held this week in Chatham. Lotto 6-49 and the 'Who's Really Who' book are also regularly heard throughout the day.

Brief bursts of Caroline's programmes can be noted here in Blackpool, usually in the mornings, and on days of better reception (ground- wave conditions are improving, by the way), using very good equipment, receiver and antennawise. On listening through lots of noise on Saturday morning, the record 'You've Got Your Troubles' by the Fortunes was heard. We wondered who this was dedicated to!

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THE VOICE OF PEACE. The above two vessels have not been alone in rough seas, as the Eastern Mediterranean too, has been experiencing storms of late. This report from the third pirate ship on the high seas (actually second now, and even this one has spent some time in port over the past few days!) arrives, thanks to Ian Hudson, Steve Crombie and the Kravitzki twins (no problems with mail from this quarter)..... The first report from 27th January, tells us that they lost the AM service again, on the 25th, during the night, thanks to the unkind weather. They planned to repair it on the first calm day! Eight deejays are reported in action, they are... Kenny Page (in charge), Paul Fraser, Steve Cromby, Ian Hudson (all English), John McDonald (Scottish), Bruce Wayne (Australian), Mike O'Sullivan and Martin Murphy (both Irish). The deejay referred to as 'Paddy' by Bruce Wayne, mentioned in last week's report, was obviously one of the Irish lads, and not a new presenter, as was presumed. The reason contact was unable to be made with the ship via the Cell- Phone link on Christmas Day, by Southside 95 in Ireland, was because the number had been changed. Apparently the subscriber pays a fee for incoming calls as well as out- going ones and Abie was not too happy about the number of calls he was being charged for. The new number is only known to himself. Incidentally, anyone wishing to write to the lads on board, can send them via P.O. Box 4399, 13 Frug Street, Tel Aviv, Israel or c/o the hotel they stay in, on their week off, which is... The Astor Hotel, P.O. Box 3416, 105 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, Israel. Either way, your letters should arrive quite quickly, as long as you address them to one or other of the deejays. Back to the story, though, and the AM transmitter remained silent until Saturday 30th January, despite some unsuccessful attempts during the week, to bring it back into service. News bulletins from Kol- Israel have been relayed on odd days, once again. The Voice of Peace went silent last Sunday (31st), at 19:20 and the ship was understood to have sailed to the port of Ashdod. This was confirmed in the latest report written on Wednesday 3rd February, which went on... 'We lost Bruce Wayne, the Australian, on 28th January. Apparently, he decided to leave during his spell on shore. Low on fuel and water, we were due to enter the port of Ashdod on 1st February, but a storm warning prompted us to go in a day earlier, and for once, the weather forecasters got it right. Within hours of mooring, winds were gusting up to 35 knots and we spent several memorable hours try to secure the ship even further. John McDonald returned, bringing with him another deejay by the name of 'Nick', another Australian, a friend of Bruce Wayne. Once safe in port, Steve and Martin left the ship for their break, and at the time of writing (3rd), the ship has just got back into position and is broadcasting normally on both AM and FM. Steve Richards returned to Israel on 13th January and is keen to return to the ship, once a position becomes vacant.' The programme schedules remain changeable and are not worth printing out this week, but the only change from the list above, is, 'Nick' replaces Bruce Wayne.

Our thanks for this week's news to all concerned.

And so ends our lengthy 'Offshore' section this week, the good news being that the VOP is back and running and Caroline is about to make a higher power 'come-back'. The bad news being that we have lost the Communicator (again). Plenty of support is called for at this time, give them lots of encouragement, it is the least they deserve.

LAND - BASED STATIONS (except London).

MERSEYSIDE. An interesting week as regards DTI activity in this area, but first we will go back to last Monday (1st February), when all three medium wave stations were heard as normal, and with good signals. Kevin Jordan was heard hosting that morning on **Radio Merseywaves** (1242kHz.). Kevin was heard on the station quite a lot last year, but not as much recently. Popular night- timer, 'International Sidney', informed us that last weekend's shows were his last. No reason was heard on air (our reporter fell asleep!!). **Radio Atlantis** (1197kHz.) were the first station we heard on Friday morning (5th), putting out a carrier as early as 09:00. Programmes commenced at 10:00 with Stephen Bishop. **North Coast Radio** (1350kHz.) and **Radio Merseywaves** (1242kHz.) were both heard later in the morning as usual. However, after several months of relative calm, with no DTI activity, this was the morning when they returned to the area. At around mid - day, there was an attempted raid on **Radio Merseywaves**. However the DTI must have been seething, as the station had in fact vacated those

particular premises several weeks ago. As a result, the DTI raided an empty flat! Obviously upset, they then turned their attentions to North Coast Radio who had been unmolested since their start - up several months ago. At around 14:00, the DTI were apparently waiting around near the station location, and eventually went to one of the nearby flats, where on obtaining no response from knocking at the door, proceeded to break in. Inside was the **North Coast Radio** transmitter and modulator, but nothing else, and no sign of any of the station staff. At this point, we understand that the DTI switched the transmitter on and off several times in an attempt to gain some response from the station engineer, Andy Davies. However, the DTI officials had been spotted, thus, this trick did not work, so, luckily no-one was actually caught and interviewed, hence no-one is going to be prosecuted. However a receipt is understood to have been left for the equipment. All in all not a very successful day for the DTI considering they apparently had 9 men looking for the stations. Mr Yates, the local official, normally in attendance at such times, was not spotted on this occasion, suggesting that it was a complete outside operation here, working on evidence collected locally. On Saturday, **Radio Merseywaves** were once again late on the air, but were loud and clear by lunchtime. **Radio Atlantis** came on with their regular programmes at around 10.15, with an excellent signal, and announced programming through until mid-night, obviously DTI willing. 1350kHz. was empty, although North Coast Radio are expected back on the air in a couple of weeks with a new transmitter.

Sunday arrived, and both **Radio Atlantis** and **Radio Merseywaves** were programming as normal, being joined later in the day, at 15:00, by **Veronica 104**, on 104.75MHz. Listening to **Radio Merseywaves** at 15:20, the record on the turntable ran out and 'clicks' were heard, suggesting no deejay present. Dead air then followed, with the carrier remaining on until approximately 15:40. We feared the worst at this stage and hastily re- tuned to the other two remaining stations, in the hope that we may learn something about what was going on. Nothing was heard however, and on a swift re- tune to 1242kHz., at 15:50, we found the station back on the air with music. The presenter seemed rather distressed and appealed several times for station owner, Burt Williams and station manager, Keith the Chief, to come to the studio, as a decision had to be made as to whether the station should carry on. It was also announced that a door had been kicked in, although he did not elaborate on this statement, as to whether it was the flat housing the studio, or an adjacent one, or even whether it was the DTI or someone else. He then said he could not carry on any longer, under the circumstances, and said 'good- bye' at 15:54. The carrier left the air one minute later.

At the time of writing, both **Atlantis** and **Veronica 104** are still operating normally and both are promising programmes until quite late into the evening. Let's hope the succeed at this unfortunate time.

YORKSHIRE, HUMBERSIDE and DERBYSHIRE. Activity in the West Yorkshire area seems to be a little quiet at the moment. **Radio Veronica** from Bradford, who have not been heard again, this week, are understood to be 'lying low' for a while, until things calm down a little. **Music City Radio** (90.3) are continuing with 7 day broadcasts, but only operating in the early and late evenings. **ABC- FM** (105.2) have a longer schedule than M.C.R., but there are still lots of blank carriers at times when no presenters have turned up. Although not heard in the week, the new station which is still testing, **Horizon Radio**, were heard this morning, on the slightly higher frequency of 91.85MHz. Unfortunately, the audio was reported to be distorted. In Keighley, the new station, **N.L.V. Radio** (104.9), continues to operate, but seems to be requiring a few more presenters, to keep the long hours of broadcasting going.

In South Yorkshire, **Rebel Radio** (105.3) returned to the airwaves on Friday, 29th January and Wednesday 3rd February. The D.J. as always was 'Scooter Jones'. Also on air, but on 104.8MHz., was **Monica Sound**. They transmitted for a couple of hours on Sunday evening, 31st January.

THE MIDLANDS. **P.C.R.L.**(103.6) were raided by the DTI on 1st February. This seems to have been one of the stops made by their officials, on their way up to Merseyside. Their transmitter left the air at around 21:00 last Monday evening and the station remained off air for most of Tuesday, until later in the evening, when it returned on the slightly lower frequency of 103.5MHz. It was mentioned on the air, on

PCRL, that there had been an article on the raid in the Birmingham Evening Mail. This was then read out, and it mentioned that the DTI had siezed the equipment in a flat in Smethwick. Apparently this flat was a regular broadcast site. The presenter mentioned that the report had obviously been written by the DTI and it alleged that interference was caused to TV's in the tower block and also that there was a 2,000 volt cable in a dangerous position. After reading it out, the deejay stated that they would put it in the fire. The station continues with its many outside functions for the community, with a St. Valentine's Party planned for Monday 15th February, at Faces International.

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The other seven day a week soul station, EnterpriseFM didn't experience any problems like PCRL, early in the week and continued broadcasting as normal. However, they were reportedly absent from the airwaves, all day on Friday, until late in the evening, suggesting that they too could have had a visit. Their frequency was understood to be slightly lower this week, on 90.85 to 90.9MHz., resulting in many problems from Radio 3 in their fringe listening area. There are definitely three Asian stations operating in the West Midlands area, and although two have been identified as Asian Radio Broadcast on 105.1MHz. and Midland Asian Community Radio on 106.0MHz., the third, and much weaker one, remains unidentified.

On the evening of 3rd February, test transmissions of continuous music were heard on 105.7MHz. The equipment was obviously being adjusted during these tests, as CB chatter could be heard in the background. Similar tests were heard on Friday 5th, on a slightly lower frequency of 105.5MHz. On Saturday evening, this transmitter carried programming from around 21:00, of a station called Powerhouse Radio. Heavy metal music was featured initially, with Motown being heard later on. No address was heard mentioned during the programme.

Other stations heard today include Soul City Radio on 103.85MHz. and Second City Radio on 95.0MHz. The latter has not been heard for some time, after attempting a seven day a week schedule. Last week, U.K. Radio was on the air on Sunday evening, and are expected again tonight, on 105.7MHz.

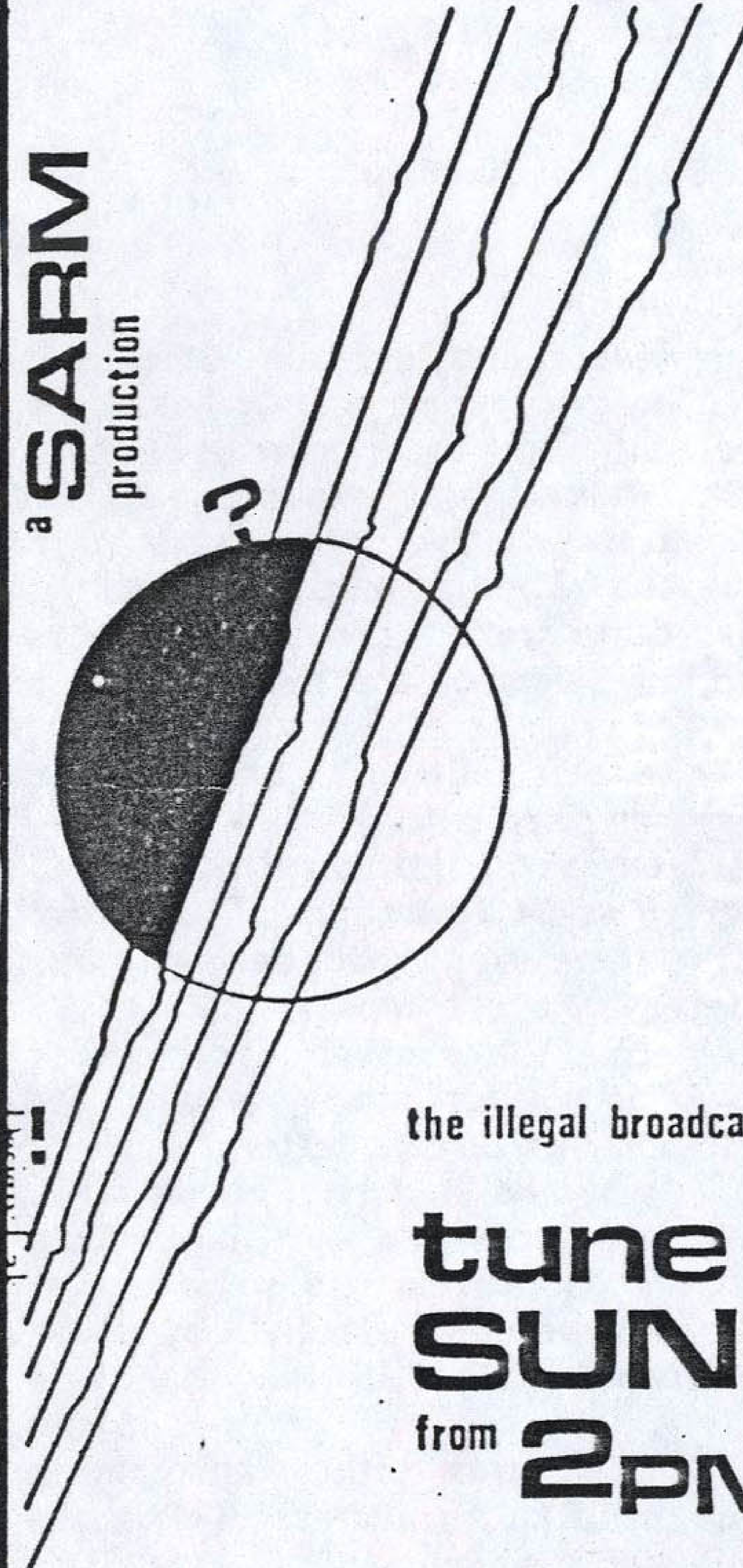
From Shropshire, no 'propagation tests' were reported this morning, from Sunshine Radio on 1017kHz.

NOTTINGHAM. Another victim of this week's purge by the DTI, was the relatively new station in this area, Heatwave Community Radio. They were broadcasting seven days per week, with what seems to be the now mandatory soul/funk/ rappin' music. The raid took place early in the week. The station had returned by Saturday morning. The frequency for listeners in the East Midlands, to look out for, is 105.0MHz. MANCHESTER. I.C.R. now seem to have recruited a few more presenters, and have been heard every night throughout the past week. They are announcing full daily schedules, but whether they have returned to a full 24 hour, 7 day operation, is unknown at this time. They continue with a reasonable signal around 103.5MHz., with just a few problems from ILR, Marcher Sound, who put in a good signal to Manchester, on the same channel.

The religious station on 96.3MHz. has once again failed to appear on both Sunday and Monday nights, so we are unsure exactly what has happened here, as we have no contact, nor do we know of anyone who has had contact with the station. We shall be listening out later this evening, however.

No other stations have been reported to us in the area, due to lack of monitoring time by our correspondents, but we feel sure that both D.I.Y Radio (104.7) and I.B.C. Radio (104.4) have both been on the air in their respective localities.

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BRISTOL. Terry's report from this area for January, indicates that the popular and entertaining "103.5 FM" has been silent for some weeks now. As a result, the only station on the air in Bristol has been the black music station, B.A.D. Radio, who broadcast quite high up on the FM band, on 106.95MHz. This station was monitored on Friday 8th, starting off its regular weekend schedule, at around 19:30 and were expected to transmit through into the early hours of Saturday morning. A similar schedule operated later that day, 9th. On Sunday, 10th, the station was first heard much earlier than normal at 15:30 with very good audio and signal, which unfortunately deteriorated later on. On the weekend commencing Friday 15th, the station was up in power, but obviously do not use a compressor, as audio on the microphone was very low. Several new B.A.D. Radio jingles were heard on this occasion. Saturday 16th, saw similar programming, but there were only blank carriers on Sunday 17th. The following weekend's programmes were only on low power (23rd - 25th), but of the usual duration, of Friday and Saturday evenings, and

Sunday afternoon and evening. Finally in January, Friday 29th, saw the station back to higher power and better audio, along with a stereo beacon. On this occasion they were mentioning a young ladies birthday party, in between all the usual soul, reggae and rap music. An advert for a local record store was broadcast during this programme, and a soul chart show was aired on the station that Sunday (31st) from 17:30 onwards, which appeared to be sponsored by the record shop advertised earlier that weekend. During strong winds that day at 21:20, the station appeared to leave the air, and was not heard again. More about happenings

SHORT WAVE STATIONS.

Log for Sunday 7th February 1988.

6217kHz...UNID., at 10:20gmt.
6224kHz...RADIO PAMELA, at 11:50gmt.
6225kHz...RADIO GEMINI, at 10:20gmt.
6240kHz...W.L.R., at 12:54gmt.
6240kHz...BOYNESIDE RADIO, at 13:58gmt.
6271kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 09:12gmt.
6271kHz...F.R.S. HOLLAND, at 09:20gmt.
6275kHz...RADIO NORMAAL, at 10:13gmt.
6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 11:20gmt.
6285kHz...P.F.B.S., at 10:52gmt.
6300kHz...RADIO ORION, at 09:15gmt.
6310kHz...R. EAST COAST COMM., at 11:11gmt.
6915kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 10:55gmt.
7315kHz...UNID., at 10:45gmt.
7376kHz...RADIO AQUARIUS INT, at 10:45gmt.
7414kHz...W.L.R., at 10:40gmt.
7430kHz...W.L.R., at 12:02gmt.

Conditions on the shortwave bands here in Blackpool today can only be described as grim, once again. Very few stations were logged here, although other correspondents seemed to have more luck. Whether this was due to poor conditions, or what, we don't know. The strongest station here was Radio Orion, but the skip was not all short, as Radio Waves was also heard quite well. Thanks to listeners in Yorkshire, Cheshire, and the Midlands for their lists this morning.

The unidentified on 6217kHz. was believed to be Riverside Radio Int., as an Irish address was given out.

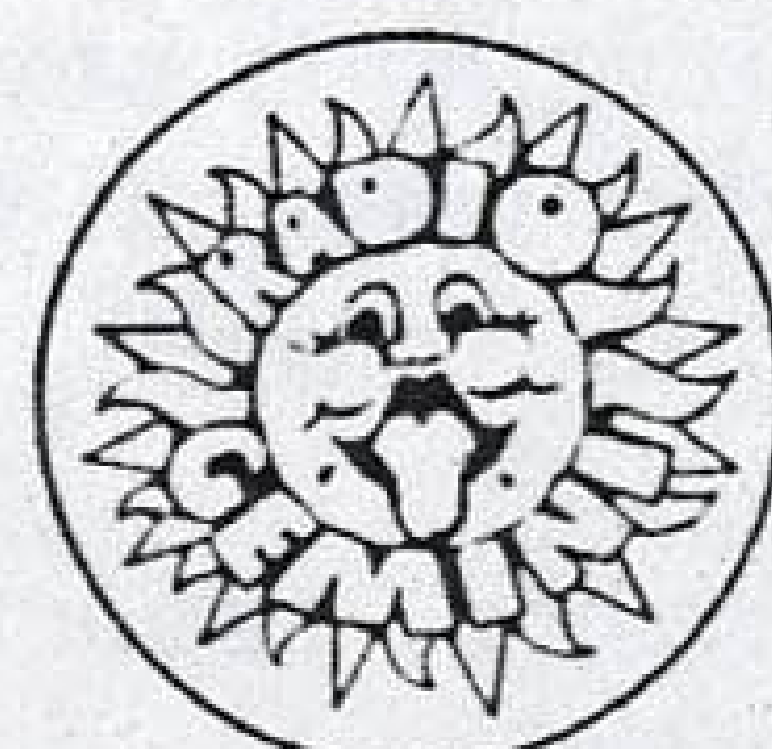
Radio Gemini were heard on the air, although we missed them. Their address was given as 34 Fuller Road, Foxmore, Hemel Hempstead, Herts., but in some publications, this address appears slightly different. Anyone know it exactly?

Radio East Coast Commercial have asked us to point out that their DX programme is not just simply a word for word rendition of Weekly Report, as several letters to them have recently inferred. In fact, the majority of news in it is gathered from their own sources and only in certain areas is news taken from this publication. In some cases, the news in Weekly Report, is actually supplied by their reporters. Credit is always given by RECC, to the respective source of information used.

The unidentified on 7315kHz. was either announcing test transmissions from TRI or BRI. An address of Postbus 81, 3450 AB, Vleuten, Holland was given out.

The Independent's Guide to Pirate Radio in London. (with apologies to Capital Radio's C- FM!)

88.4 *Greek Radio of London*: Greek language 8.00am-8.00pm daily.
88.6 *Community Development Radio*: Wide mix of music, with black emphasis. 24 hrs a day. Londonwide.
89.5 *London Rock*: South/Central 7.00-11.00, Sat only.
89.5 *London Music Radio*: Hip Hop to New Age, first Saturday of the month. South London.
89.5 *Radio Activity*: Music and information. Weekday evenings, 24 hour on weekends. Streatham.
89.6 *Network 21*: Alternative music. Fri/Sat evenings. South/Central.
89.6 *Mainline Radio*: Jazz and Funk. Evenings. West London.
89.9 *Radio Duck*: Baby boomer oldies. Sunday. NW London.
90.0 *RJR*: Black Community Station. 24 hrs. Haringey, Hackney, Islington.
90.0 *Clockwork Wireless*: Pop/Rock and chat. Sunday evenings.
90.2 *Rock To Rock*: Soul, Reggae, Calypso, Jazz. SE London. Every day.
90.4 *Icehouse*: Hip-hop. S London.
90.5 *Arab Radio London*: Arabic. North London. 5.00-12.00 daily.
90.6 *Soul-FM*: Soul. SE London and Kent. Evenings.
90.8 *Sina Radio*: Indian music and information. Southall. 24 hours.
90.9 *Faze One-FM*: Soul, Funk, Hip-hop. South London. 24 hours.
91.7 *Sky Radio*: Black community radio. South London. 24 hours.
92.1 *LWR*: Black dance music. 24 hours. Londonwide.
92.4 *Direct Line Radio*: Pop by day, soul by night. Weekends. SE London.
92.6 *Radio Free London*: Classic Rock. Sunday pm. South London.
92.7 *Quest-FM*: Soul. 24 hours. South/Central London.
92.8 *Studio-FM*: Weekdays. North.
93.0 *Solar Radio*: Classic Soul. 24 hours. Londonwide.
93.3 *Radio Badger*: Funk. Evenings. West London/Middx.
93.3 *Starpoint Radio*: Soul. 24 hours. Londonwide.
93.9 *Dread Broadcasting Corporation*: Live concert broadcasts. Friday pm. West London.
94.0 *SOL*: Soul. Wed 10.00-12.00. North London.
94.0 *Kiss FM*: Soul, Hip-hop and Rare Groove. Top underground DJ's. Weekends, 24 hours. Londonwide.
94.3 *Kjazz*: Jazz. Suns. Londonwide.
94.3 *RFM*: Rock album tracks. Sun 9.00-11.00. Londonwide.
94.3 *Radio Amanda*: Rock. Sat 6.00-12.00. Londonwide.
94.5 *City Radio*: Reggae, Soul. 24 hours. North London.
94.6 *Chicago 87*: Soul, House Music. 24 hours. SE London, Kent, Essex.
95.5 *London Greek Radio*: Greek programmes. Daily. Londonwide.
95.8 *CFM*: Pop. Sun 10.00am-12.00am. Londonwide.
96.1 *Touch FM*: Soul. 24 hours.
96.9 *Girls FM*: Dance. Daily. West London.
97.0 *DCFM*: Rock. Weekends. Londonwide.
97.9 *Traffic Jam*: Reggae. 24 hours. NW London.
98.0 *Raiders FM*: New Pop hits. Weekends. South London.
102.4 *TKO*: Soul, Reggae, Salsa, African, Latin, Gospel. 24 hrs. Londonwide.
102.7 *Melody FM*: Soul. Sundays. SE London, Kent.
103.3 *Fresh FM*: Reggae, Soul. 24 hours. Londonwide.
103.7 *Time Radio*: Black music. 24 hours. NW London.
103.9 *Turkish Community Radio*: Turkish language. 24 hours. N London.
104.2 *London Asian Radio*: Indian music and soul. Daily. Londonwide.
104.2 *Radio Gemini*: Pop, Community radio. Weekday pm. Streatham.
104.3 *JBC*: Black community radio. 24 hours. NW London.
104.3 *British Greek Community Radio*: Greek Music. 24 hours. N London.
104.4 *WNK*: Black Music. 24 hours. N London.
105.3 *South West Sound*: Pop, Rock, Soul, local news. Fri, Sat 8.00-12.00. SW London.
105.3 *MRS-FM*: Soul. Weekends. East London.
105.3 *WLFM*: Pop. Tue 8.00-12.00. NW London.
105.3 *Asian Community Radio*: Indian Disco, Bangra. Eves. NE London.
105.5 *Hits FM*: Sats. Londonwide.
105.6 *Trax-FM*: Asian Soul. 24 hours. NW London.
106.0 *Radio Interference*: Anarchy. Fri 6.00-7.00. S London.
106.0 *WLFM*: Pop. Tue pm. West London/Middx.
106.3 *Radio Embassy*: Rock 'n' Roll. Sat. N London.



88.4	GREEK RADIO OF LONDON
88.4	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RADIO
89.5	LONDON ROCK
89.5	LONDON MUSIC RADIO
89.5	RADIO ACTIVITY
89.6	NETWORK 21
89.6	MAINLINE RADIO
89.9	RADIO DUCK
90.0	RJR
90.0	CLOCKWORK RADIO
90.2	ROCK TO ROCK
90.4	ICEHOUSE
90.5	ARAB RADIO STATION
90.6	SOUL-FM
90.8	SINA RADIO
90.9	FAZE ONE-FM
91.7	SKY RADIO
92.1	LWR
92.4	DIRECT LINE RADIO
92.6	RADIO FREE LONDON
92.7	QUEST-FM
92.8	STUDIO-FM
93.0	SOLAR RADIO
93.3	PLAYBACK FM
93.3	RADIO BADGER
93.9	DREAD BROADCASTING CORP.
94.0	SOL
94.0	KISS FM
94.3	KJAZZ
94.3	RFM
94.5	RADIO AMANDA
94.6	CITY RADIO
94.6	CHICAGO 87
95.5	LONDON GREEK RADIO
95.8	CFM
96.1	TOUCH FM
96.9	GIRLS FM
97.0	DCFM
97.9	TRAFFIC JAM
98.0	RAIDERS FM
102.4	TKO
102.7	MELODY FM
103.3	FRESH FM
103.7	TIME RADIO
103.9	TURKISH COMMUNITY RADIO
104.2	LONDON ASIAN RADIO
104.2	RADIO GEMINI
104.3	BRITISH GREEK COMMUNITY RADIO
104.4	WNK
105.3	SOUTH WEST SOUND
105.3	MRS-FM
105.3	WLFM
105.6	ASIAN COMMUNITY RADIO
106.0	TRAX-FM
106.0	RADIO INTERFERENCE
106.0	WLFM
106.3	RADIO EMBASSY

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REPORT

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The First with the News in Print

No. 198.....14th February 1988. P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England...Price 20p.

The people who live in the North of the British Isles were subject to appalling weather last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with hurricane conditions being experienced at a level, on a par with what the South of the country suffered last October. The only difference was that this time, we had plenty of warning, but that really is not much good. You just have to sit it out and hope for the best. Plenty of roof tiles and TV aerials went flying, and we feel sure that some of our subscribers may well have suffered some losses. We were more lucky, with only two dislodged tiles and no damage to our aerials, although they took a considerable hammering.

The comings and goings of pirate stations always make news and the arrival of the m.v. Communicator into Harwich Harbour was no exception. Whilst not the most successful station to ever have broadcast, Laser 558 did attract possibly one of the largest audiences for a station of this type, hence all the interest at such times as these. At this point, we must particularly thank all who rang in to report the happenings, including formerly involved personnel and newspaper reporters, and all who wrote in and included newspaper cuttings and photographs. We are often unable to write back and thank everyone personally, but must stress that we, and very many readers, really appreciate the effort made. We should like to thank all at this time, for once again contributing to make Weekly Report so accurate, up to date and complete.

WEEKLY REPORT & CUTTINGS is produced, printed and posted out each Sunday evening, from Blackpool. Subscription rates are as follows.... First Class (U.K.) and EEC countries (including Eire), 40p..... Second Class (U.K. only), 35p..... EEC countries (Sweden, Finland, Norway, Switzerland, etc.), 45p..... Elsewhere (via Air Mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate. Please check envelopes each week, as occasionally they contain enclosures. One such enclosure may advise the end of a subscription period. Only one is sent out and failure to notice it for any reason, may mean the interruption of your weekly read.

THE ANORAKS U.K. INFO - LINE keeps you up to date with free radio happenings and events. Ring (0795) 511118 and hear a three minute message, with all the latest news. If you have something you would like us to know, then ring (0795) 511119 and leave your message after the whistle tone, but please don't leave any messages about subscriptions and merchandise, as these are handled from Blackpool, the number here being (0253) 882017 (during office hours).

ADVERTISE IN WEEKLY REPORT and reach people genuinely interested in free radio. We mail out to just under 800 subscribers, at home and abroad, each week and we can include your advert inside for a very reasonable price. A full page will only cost you £20.00. A half page will be £11.00 and a quarter, £6.00. Simply send us the copy you wish to see in print, on whitish paper, any size, include the remittance and leave the rest to us.

NEW MERCHANDISE. As mentioned last week, we are now offering a set of six superb Jumbo colour prints of the m.v. Communicator, taken following the ship's recent return to the River Stour, and Shotley Quay in particular. This latest set is entitled "Communicator- The End?". The six shots are as follows... 1. A side view of the ship, similar to those seen in recent newspapers, tied up alongside Shotley Pier. 2. A close-up of the ship from the rear. 3. Alongside now, and this one looks to the front of the ship, with the new masts still lying along the side decks, rust marks running down from where the climbing rungs had been welded. 4. Below decks, and a view of the production studio, showing a lot of gaps and empty spaces, where once, expensive equipment had sat. 5. In the generator room, and all still spick and span. Someone had been keeping this area well maintained. 6. Finally, in the main on-air studio, where everything has been ripped out, leaving nothing to remind us of what it had been. Even the insulation on the walls has been stripped off. The price is £3.00 for this exclusive set of the ship. Don't miss out, send off now! Who knows, these may well be the last photographs offered for sale..... Every few months we accumulate articles from newspapers and magazines, which are not so much news, as stories and features, and are far too large to be included in the weekly cuttings sheets. We now have a further 10 or more x B4 sheets, including the extensive article from 'The Face', which many people may not have seen, plus items about PCRL, the scene in Bristol and a recent potted history of Laser, from a local Harwich newspaper, following the ship arriving in the Stour. The cost of this parcel of sheets, which are posted flat (not folded), and protected with cardboard, is £1.50. Please note that due to higher printing costs and VAT complications, the Radio NewYork package of cuttings has also had to be increased in price to £1.50, and packs 1, 2 and 3 (covering weeks 1 - 50 of weekly report - see current merchandise list) will now be £4.00 each, or £11.00 for all three. We apologise for this unavoidable increase in price..... It has been pointed out that current editions of our sales list indicate that we have no 12" copies of 'I Spy For The DTI'. This is incorrect, we have lots of the

12" single in stock, complete with picture sleeve and the current price is £4.00..... Finally, we are still accepting orders at the old price, for loop/ frame aerials. Everyone seems to be talking and writing about them at the moment, and rightly so, as they are a must for any medium wave radio listener. Amazing results have been achieved with their use. The price until the end of the month is £28.00 for the de-luxe model. The new price from 1st March will be £35.00.

NEW ARRIVALS. A mass of reading matter arrived on our desk this week. First was **Medium Wave News** (Feb. 88), which is in A5 in size, and contains 16 pages about the hobby of medium wave DX-ing. As well as the regular sections 'DX Loggings', 'Verification' and 'DX News', this issue also has a 2 page feature on building your own frame/loop aerial and a feature on activity in the Caribbean area. Enquiries about joining the Medium Wave Circle should be made to Harold Emblem, 137A Hampton Road, Southport, Merseyside PR8 5DY..... Also A5 size, and the February edition, is **Communication**, the monthly journal of the British DX Club. This publication covers all radio bands, and includes sections on general news, DX news, tropical and HF logs, and 'Alternative Airwaves'. One very useful feature, is a full page listing of current DX programmes. If you are interested in joining this club, then write to Colin Wright, 54 Birkhall Road, Catford, London SE6 1TE..... **Airflash** is the Journal of the Community Radio Association, and the February edition is now out. This publication has plenty of articles, features and opinions on various aspects of 'community radio' both at home and abroad. Sample copies can be obtained for 30p, plus an s.a.e., from East Newcastle Community Radio, St. Anthony of Padua Community Association, Welbeck Road, Walker, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE6 3BT..... Now becoming a regular in this column is **Short Wave Newsletter**. Issue No. 34 has six A4 pages of short wave information, including the regular band-scan section and up to date schedules from the world's broadcasters. Two pages of shortwave 'free radio' information and loggings are also included. Sample copies are 70p from SWN, 3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford, Essex RM3 0HH..... **Freewave** the Dutch language publication is now into its 10th year, with the current issue being No.

157. Both recent news and stories, as well as features on past offshore radio projects are included in each issue of this 28 page, A5 magazine. More information can be obtained from Hans Knot, Postbus 102, 9700 AC Groningen, The Netherlands..... Also from Holland, but this time printed in English, is **FRS Goes DX** (No. 67). This monthly publication features news and information about the offshore radio scene, and also specialises in shortwave free radio, with lots of information about that sector. The second part of an interview with Walter Simmons is also included in this issue. Subscriptions can be obtained from F.R.S. Holland, P.O. Box 41, 7700 AA Dedemsvaart, The Netherlands..... Over to Germany for Issue 18 of **D.P.M. Newsetter**. Completely in the German language, this A5 publication has 12 pages and includes two pages of newspaper cuttings (like WR). General short wave, medium wave and FM pirate news, plus features. The price is DM 0.80 or 1 x IRC, from Funkgemeinschaft - FG, Postfach 1130, D - 4154 Tonisvorst 1, West Germany..... Last, but not least, (although it is last in a couple of ways!), the final issue of **Now Radio Reports, No.10**. The reason for it being the last is the fact that the sister publication, Now Radio, will be published weekly from now on. General radio news, pirate and legal, featured within. Further details from P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants. NN16 ONW.

Finally, we do try and remember to indicate each week, which language the new arrivals are in. We do occasionally forget, but generally, where the magazine is available from, dictates which language it is in. There are some exceptions however, and the three most notable are... **FRS Goes DX** (from Holland), **Radiotelex** (from West Germany) and **Play-DX** (from Italy). All these are in the English language.

TAPE OFFER. First off this week, Tape 157 features a rather interesting recording made on October 31st 1987. During the latter half of last year, when the m.v. Communicator was being refurbished for two new proposed radio stations, several continuous music tests were made on the transmitters, using a dummy load. Some of these tests, on 576kHz., actually travelled further than expected, and were received in parts of Essex and Suffolk. This particular recording was actually made in the studio, and features John Lewis, who decided to add a little more to the tests than just the music, by calling the transmissions **Radio Sunk** (after the anchorage and not the project, we must add!). Although no adverts or promotions are heard on this recording, there is plenty of humour from John, who gives mention to all the vessels passing in that part of the North Sea (the Sunk Anchorage). This was possibly the very final broadcast to emanate from the m.v. Communicator and we fully expect it to become our best seller to date, as every collector will wish to own this little piece of nostalgia. Quality at the start is just slightly down, and the first few links are 'air - checked', but it soon settles and becomes a good quality, interesting tape and features some rather good music too..... It's across to the West of Eire for Tape 158. In County Galway we find the FM only station, **County Sounds Radio (C.S.R.)**. Operating on several frequencies in order to cover the county, this particular recording features a more pop and rock format than some of the others in the area. Tommy Ryan is your host on this evening show from 2nd February, which was recorded in FM mono..... Finally this week, for Tape 159, it's back to the United States for another chance to hear from **WCKG-FM** in Chicago. Recorded just last week, Debbie Alexander takes you through an early evening on this stereo, classic rock station. All this week's selections are 90 minutes in length and cost just £2.00 each. We do expect quite a demand this week, so urge anyone who wants copies quickly, to order as soon as possible, as delays of a few days are bound to occur, as we always use 'real time' when dubbing, in order to maintain the high quality we are renowned for.

All back tapes from No. 1 right up to No. 159 are still available and a complete listing, along with a few 'extras', is available on request.

WANTED. Good quality, studio recordings of RNI, Caroline, Mi Amigo, jingles, theme tunes and commercials...Tim Stewart, 7 Eden Way, North Brickhill, Bedford.

WANTED. "Five Tracks of Laughter" by the Hysterics, sounds effects E.P., also "Resurrection Shuffle" by Ashton, Gardner and Dyke... write with price, to Tommy Murphy, 33 Lord Edward Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Eire.

OFFERS wanted for 'Radio Caroline Annual 1965'. Contains stories and pictures of pop stars of the day. Some colour

pictures of Caroline D.J.'s, and stories about the station. Very rare. Yours offers can be telephoned in to (0533) 351243 at any time.

WANTED. Free radio D.J.'s to make programme tapes in English or German for Radio C.L.C.G. Please send demo tape in the first instance, along with 1 x IRC, to C.L.C.G., c/o Wilfried Meyer, Postfach 54 01 01, D - 4100 Duisburg 11, West Germany.

WANTED. I'm looking for English religious programmes on the radio, on the request of the organisation which took care of the Viewpoint programmes on Caroline. I have already sent them 22 addresses of stations who put out religious tapes, so if you know of any, please send them to me, in order that I can help this organisation, based in the USA (and Caroline).... Rudi Koot, Handellaan 14, 4102 AE Culemborg, The Netherlands.

GENERAL. We apologise for the delay in offering/fulfilling orders for WRTH 1988. Our suppliers, W.H. Smith (wholesale), who have been 'on the ball' other years, seem to be 'dragging their feet', so to speak. We understand the books have arrived in the country, from the publisher in the U.S.A., but Smiths have yet to come up with the goods, blaming 'computer problems' and 'internal changes, moving the wholesale book department from Swindon to Nottingham'. We are applying pressure and hope to have supplies within days.

Colleague, Edwin Southwell, reminds us that a book heard reviewed on Media Network a couple of weeks back, is called 'Border Blasters' and is all about the stations which operate from Mexico and aim their programmes into the U.S.A. One such station is XETRA and features Wolfman Jack (we offered it some time back). Further details are obtainable from Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767, USA. The book costs \$18.95 and Edwin has sent for more details. Maybe he will do a small review for WR, once he receives same back.

Still with Edwin, he tells us that on 17th March, Radio Netherlands, in their Media Network programme, will have a feature entitled 'The Riviera Connection', all about English language stations in the South of France. Media Network can be heard on SW, 5955kHz., at just after 11:30 and again, at just after 14:30GMT. Reception is usually excellent.

Our info- line operator, Steve, is still collecting details (mailing addresses and contact telephone numbers) of all U.K. operators (except SW) and asks if anyone has any info to help him, he will be pleased to hear from you on (0795) 511119. You can write, of course, with information to us at P.O. Box 539, etc. A full and hopefully comprehensive list will be forthcoming very soon.

RADIO STATION NEWS...IRELAND. The severe storms which swept across Ireland early in the week, brought problems for several stations. Although most of the big operations managed to stay on the air, albeit with a few hiccups in some cases, one of the major stations broadcasting across the border into Northern Ireland, **Erneside Radio**, has been off the air since at least Tuesday (9th), and has only just returned, at the time of writing. They were also off for a time during the previous week, due to work by the ESB, but this time we understand that they lost their medium wave tower in the high winds. The absence of Erneside, has meant that **Premier County Radio** (1251) has also been noted as far away as Scotland. A full identification was heard at 09:00, mentioning both 88 and 104MHz., as well as 1251kHz. This was followed by the news. Quite a number of commercials were heard, from Clonmel and Thurles, suggesting that the station is covering a large area, and becoming well established. Also off the air on medium wave, Tuesday (9th), were **Community Radio Fingal** (1575kHz.), **Radio Carousel** (1125kHz.), **Longford Community Radio** (1071kHz.), **Independent Radio Mayo** (738kHz.), **Radio North** (846kHz.), **North West Community Radio** (1008 and 1116kHz.), **Breifni Redional Radio** (1170kHz.) and **Carlow Community Radio** (1044kHz.). Again, at the time of writing, we are still unable to receive Longford Community Radio or Carlow Community Radio. Missing on FM were **KISS-FM** (103.7MHz.) and **KITS-FM** (100.9MHz.). Almost all, reported towers, masts or aerial wires down. **KLB** from Naas, on 1224kHz., are off, and have been all week, but we are not sure if the storms were the reason here, as we think they were off air beforehand. Big 'M' from Castleblayney however, were noted at all times during this period, on 864 and 954kHz., and announcing 97.8MHz.FM., so it sounds that this team were lucky, weather- wise.

Co. DUBLIN. Any problems with the weather here, were

quickly overcome by resident engineers, which the bigger city stations employ. We noticed no stations missing on our many checks in the week. **Q 102** were heavily promoting a St. Valentine's outside broadcast from city centre, Switzers store. On listening on Friday, Scott Williams was missing from his early show. Apparently, he was under the weather, but hoped to return for the OB on Saturday. As always happens on this station, with missing presenters, the others all extend their shows by one hour to cover. Scott was unable to make it back for Saturday, and present at the midday to 15:00, OB were... Gareth O'Callaghan, Dave Kelly, Greg Gaughran and Martin Block. Lots of giveaways were featured, the recipients winning roses and Switzers £10 gift vouchers. **Sunshine 101's** team were out on the streets, giving away £15, 'for listening to the red hot sounds of Sunshine 101', in the week. A couple were interviewed, one said Sunshine and promptly won £15.00, the other strangely said 'Energy!' We thought it amusing that they would leave this one on the tape for re-playing. They obviously thought so too, and the guy was rewarded with a packet of Rolo from the generous Mr Robinson (coo- coo- ca- choo!!!) Over at **Energy Power 103**, the station with the strongest AM signal, on 738kHz., more presenters seem to be changing names (it seems to be the 'in' thing at present!). The new names tie in with names for which the station has had jingles made. The latest to do this is Niall McGowan, who is now known as Neil Hammond. Chris Cameron has been noted more of late, and was heard yesterday with 'Solid Gold Weekend' with music from the '60's and '70's. Finally in Dublin, ICBS, the religious station, on 981kHz., has been heard giving out a new telephone number... Dublin 605897.

Co. MONAGHAN. **KISS- FM** has been noted in Scotland on 103.7MHz., in stereo, suggesting an increase in power. Their signal is quite strong, but suffers from carrier hum. A two hour test programme is being repeated, featuring music, jingles, commercials, and test announcements. One of these advises listeners to expect breaks in transmissions, due to extensive engineering work at the FM and AM sites. A promotion asking prospective presenters to send demos to Tom Hardy at an address in Monaghan Town was also heard.

Co. GALWAY. **County Sounds Radio** from Tuam, are shortly set to move studios into the city, we understand from today's Radio West programme. Currently they broadcast on 94.3MHz., to the county, 101.0MHz., to Galway city and 98.0MHz., to Ballinasloe. **KFM** are located in Galway city and can be heard on 95 and 99.0MHz. The station features many jingles, often between every record. **West Coast Radio**, formerly **Twigs FM**, can be heard on 100.1MHz. **Coast 103** are now to be found on the lower frequency of 102.4MHz. **Radio West** (Galway relay) and the occasional **Swingin' Radio Impulse**, complete the independent band-scan in the city. An unknown station was heard by Radio West's Sean Coyne, whilst in that area. He said it was not from Galway, as it came in better on high ground outside the city. It identified as **Carnival Radio**, was on 98.0MHz., and was running a competition, where you pick up your phone and say some cliché connected with the station. Has anybody any ideas?

Co. MAYO. **Independent Radio Mayo**, who suffered some damage to their tower in the week, have extended their live transmissions to midnight. They can be heard on 95.7, 101.6 and 738kHz., with an additional FM outlet to Castlebar. **Mid- West Radio** from Ballyhaunis, can be found on 98, 106.0MHz.FM and 1233 and 1332kHz.AM, with the FM link on 99.1MHz.

LAND - BASED STATIONS.

BRISTOL. Activity in this city is increasing again, with the addition of a new station, **F.T.P. 104** (approx 104.0MHz.) on Sunday 7th February. They were first noted by South Bristol Monitor, Terry, at 17:48, with muffled rap music. There was then an announcement saying "forget B.A.D. Radio, this is F.T.P. 104 FM". Audio wise, the new station is having the same problems as B.A.D. did in their earlier broadcasts, including the very low microphone levels. The same day, (7th), **B.A.D. Radio (Bristol Amalgamated Deejays Radio)**(106.95) were on the air for their regularly extended Sunday broadcasts from 15:00 until 03:00. However, they were suffering from a large carrier sitting almost on top of them for much of the weekend, making tuning into the station very difficult. This 'jammer' vanished at about 19:00, and B.A.D. Radio became quite audible.

On Monday 8th February, a surprise was at hand, with black music already being played on 104.0MHz, when the channel was checked at 16:00. The first announcements came at around 18:00, when a presenter announced that the first 'official' day of broadcast from **F.T.P. 104** was underway. He apologised for the technical difficulties (distortion and only one turntable), but did say, that from the following day they would be on from 17:00 'brilliant', and begin their seven day per week schedule which will include 24 hours at the weekend. A break in transmission was noted at 18:56, but they were back on the air by 19:07 and when last monitored at 22:00 were still plugging away. The following night, **Radio F.T.P.** burst into life at just after 18:15 with an excellent signal, which was accompanied by a much more organised level of audio, less distortion of the music, and a good microphone level, enabling the presenters to be easily heard over the records. At 20:45 that evening, the presenter mentioned that if anyone had equipment they could donate to the station, they would like to hear from them, and a telephone number was given out at this point. On Wednesday (10th) one announcer contradicted what others had said, in that the station's hours would be 5 to midnight for 5 nights, and then until 2am on Saturday and Sunday, totalling 53 hours per week. Finally this week, on Thursday (11th), the station signed on at 16:59, with the best since the launch of the station. More in a future issue. We await to see how B.A.D. Radio will react to this new 7 day per week competitor.

THE MIDLANDS. Both **P.C.R.L. Radio** (103.5) and **Enterprise FM** (90.9) were heard as normal this week, although **P.C.R.L.** were not on the air in the late afternoon / early evening of Tuesday 9th February. Programmes recommenced by 18:35, and it was mentioned that technical problems were the cause of the break, and not the DTI.

103.5 f.m. MIDLANDS
No.1 RADIO STATION
Souvenirs & Gifts
PCRL Radio 103.5 f.m.
PCRL HOUSE
151, Dudley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
021-454-9152

Second City Radio (95.0) now seem to be into full swing, following advertising via 'flyposters' in the city, mentioning a return to the air, on Friday 5th February. Reception is understood to not be very good in certain areas, due to their frequency being very close to that of local BBC stations. An address has been read out of **S.C.R.**, 131-133 Corporation Street, Birmingham.

Powerhouse Radio 105 (105.0) were heard again, on both Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th February the latter being from 20:30 until about midnight. Our correspondent in Birmingham mentioned that there were reception problems due to bleedover from **Asian Radio Broadcast** on 105.1MHz. Music played on Powerhouse Radio ranged from rock to Northern soul, along with long 'mega - mixes' between 22:00 and 23:00. The latest report indicates that this station has been on the air every night this week, from around 18:00,

and reception seems to be best, West of the city. Also heard all week, has been the second of the two powerful Asian Community stations, **MACR** on 106.0MHz. **U.K. Radio** are expected on the air this evening, on 105.0MHz., and recent correspondence from the station indicates that they may shortly test on a Sunday afternoon, on 1413kHz.

SHROPSHIRE. Across in Ludlow, **Sunshine Radio** were reported on the air testing again, on Friday evening, from 19:00 until 20:30. Apparently this test was to see how the signal stood up to the powerful foreigner on 1017kHz. The answer was 'not so good' it seems. The station was alive again this morning, and we just caught the tail end of the programmes which ran from 10:30 until 12:30. Poor conditions had prevented earlier reception of the signal. Station main man, Graham Symonds, was appearing on Radio Wales, on 882kHz., at 12:30 today. He was expected to talk about the proposed changes, following a meeting with Douglas Hurd. We were unable to tune in at this time, due to unforeseen circumstances, but feel sure we shall receive a report of what was said, later in the week.

A letter received from Quest FM mentioned that they have not been on the air recently due to an attempted raid. They hope to return soon however, with a more powerful signal.

YORKSHIRE, HUMBERSIDE and DERBYSHIRE. It appears as if the DTI may well have turned their attentions this past week, during their tour of Northern England, to the 7 day per week operations in Leeds. Both **Music City Radio** (90.3) and **ABC - FM** (105.2) were on the air as normal up until Wednesday night (10th) / Thursday morning (11th) of last week. Early on Thursday, **ABC - FM** could still be heard on 105.2MHz., at 06:15, however both programmes and carrier had disappeared when our correspondent tuned in again at 08:00. **ABC** usually leave their carrier on the air even when there is no D.J. available. **Music City Radio** had promised programmes from 12:00 on Thursday, on the usual 90.3MHz. frequency. However, they too were missing when listened for later in the afternoon, although had returned by Saturday afternoon. At the time of printing, **ABC - FM** has not been heard on the air, suggesting they might have been visited. Possibly the disappearance of **ABC**, caused **M.C.R.** to switch off for a couple of days. The weekend only service of **Horizon Radio** (91.8) was the lone station on the air in Leeds on Friday evening (12th). We wonder whether this station would also have been visited, had it been running a seven day service.

Once again, no reports of stations being heard from the Bradford area have been received here. Just North of Bradford, in Keighley, **N.L.V. Radio** (104.9) are still believed to be on the air, and requiring extra presenters.

In South Yorkshire, Ronald tells us that **Rebel Radio** (105.3) were on the air with presenter 'Scooter Jones', last Monday, 8th February. At 22:05, the transmitter cut off in mid record, but then returned at 22:15. At this point 'Scooter' said "I don't know who you are outside, but you are spoiling the programme". The transmitter then left the air, not to be heard again that night. It is not certain, whether this was the DTI, or some other person who caused the problems. Ronald also mentions that the Nottingham station **Heatwave Community Radio**, or **Heatwave 105** (105.0), is now putting in a very good signal to his area of Chesterfield. Prior to the raid on the station, their signal was very poor with him. The format is still reggae, funk, soul and hip-hop music. Many adverts can be heard on the station, sometimes for up to 3 minutes, and have been noted for a Hi Fi shop, bakery and various nightclubs.

LONDON WEEKEND SURVEY.

5th - 8th February 1988.

This weekend, touched down on 29 stations, of which 7 were in stereo.

New this week :- **ICE** (102.8 - stereo).

Missing / not heard :- **C.D.R.**, **N.M.R.**, **R.T.R.**, **Faze 1**, **Starpoint**, **Touch FM**, **Hits FM** and **SW Sound**.

Returned :- **Girls FM** (96.9).

Busted :- **Playback**.

Despite increased funding for the DTI/RIS, activity was at a very low level this weekend, with only Watford's **Playback FM** (93.15) reported as being busted. This left the way clear for Privateers to consolidate the gains made over the last week or two. While newcomers **Galaxy Radio** (103.05) build and increase their power, **Time Radio** (103.75) mysteriously remain in mono. **TKO** have the cleanest stereo signal in town, while **Roots FM** (93.15) still persist in humming along

to everything. This led to as full a Sunday as has been noted, with 28 confirmed contacts made at just after 8pm. One unexplained absence was the no - show of **Hits FM** (105.5), possibly due to vandals, or maybe an early cldown before the scan. [TX actually stolen - Ed.]

Friday saw a number of stations in test mode. Just after 8pm, long weekenders, **Studio FM** (92.7) were heard tinkering about with tapes, volume and EQ controls, which meant that they probably missed their usual Thursday lunchtime turn on. A low power signal on 92.95MHz., at first was thought to be **Solar 93**, but turned out to be a spurious signal from **Time Radio** (103.75). By the early hours of Saturday morning, **Solar** was certainly on the air, and back in full power stereo for the first time since their multiple busts on 17th January. Also testing were **Raiders FM** (105.3) now ID'ing as **Raiders Pop FM**. Judging by the strength of their signal, especially in Central London, **Raiders** may well be joining the ranks of **Roots FM**, **Fresh FM**, **Time Radio**, and **Hits FM**, in the Super Heinekin League. The two known spurious signals from Harlesden's **Time Radio** - 92.95 and 106.45 - continue to be heard loud and clear. **Time** appear to be un-concerned about it, and the problem will probably disappear when the next transmitter does.

WNK (102.85), believed to be coming out of the Hackney area, is but a pale shadow of its former self. Now in low power mono, it barely reaches the West End, being hemmed in on both sides by powerful **ILR** out of towners, **Radio Mercury** (Reigate TX), and **Radio 210** (Staines TX), both of which can normally be picked up clearly, right across town. **WNK** now suffers the indignity of a new station, believed to be called **ICE**, coming from South of the river, in stereo, on 102.8MHz. Before **ICE** started, reception of **WNK** was poor, especially in the South of London, but now reception is limited to the immediate area surrounding both transmitters.

Girls FM (96.9) have finally made the effort, and are back with a series of low power mono tests. A carrier was first noted in the early hours of Saturday morning, and tapes and programming of a sort was heard later. There were even a couple of female voices!. They had gone again by Sunday afternoon.

Overnight Saturday / Sunday, saw a number of stations in stand - by mode, with just dead carriers. On **LWR** (92.2 - stereo), the **AD Experience** was extended somewhat past its 6am finish, due to the no-show of the follow up jock, a problem which is always there, especially on Saturday nights. This may have been the same reason for dead air on **Sky FM** (91.7 - stereo), **WNK** (102.85), and surprisingly, **Fresh FM** (103.35) and **TKO** (102.4 - stereo).

On the Brixton / 90MHz. front line sector, **Faze 1** (90.9) and reggae micro senders **Ram Jam** (90.0) were still off the air this weekend. **RTR** (90.3) are still suffering from the multiple busts, allegedly due to a particularly dirty set of transmitters, which cause interference problems to their near neighbours in Brixton Nick! This leaves the way clear for newcomers **PRS** (90.45), now revealed as **Peoples Radio Station**, to firmly establish themselves. The name suggests that a 'community' tag will be following in a short time. Also claiming community status are **Passion Radio** (90.65), who are also consolidating their position with the absence of **Faze 1** and **RTR**. **Passion** went off air on Sunday night for reasons unknown, as did **Roots FM**.

Weekenders **Groove FM** (89.95), **Studio FM** (92.7), **Solar 93** (92.95 - stereo), **KISS FM** (93.95), **K-Jazz** (94.45), **R-FM** (94.25), **Hits FM** (105.5) and **Raiders FM** (105.25) have now been rejoined by North London soulsters **Soul FM** (91.0) on a regular basis - well the last two weeks anyway.

On Sunday evening on 100MHz., bang in the middle of the Police Band sector, were heard the familiar sounds of a station being put together. Along with the various clicks, hums, bangs and associated noises, were heard snatches of Soca music. If someone seriously intends to set up business there, they will no doubt find it very expensive. They might of course try entertaining the police, who, no doubt, would welcome the opportunity of some light relief. How about a theme song played every fifteen minutes - say 'A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One'.

Fun and games at **Fresh FM** (103.35) on Monday 8th February, as 'Drive Time' was extended by half an hour, to include a live interview with Martinique singer Dee Jackson Surinam. Confusion was inevitable, as singer Dee spoke only French, and the Guyanese presenter spoke only English. The natural ebb and flow of conversation was somewhat

stilted, even with the active help of a translator. A first for Fresh!, and fifteen merit points for trying.

From a crowded London FM band, which the DoTI People will be trying to thin out, more fun and high jinks next week."

LONDON UP-DATE. Once again this week, the DTI have not been too active in the city and most stations have been noted regularly, the exception being Fresh- FM, who were missing today. This is one of the stations who have enjoyed an almost raid- free existence for many months now. It is very unusual to hear nothing on 103.3MHz. **Hits- FM** were heard back on the air this week, following the theft of their transmitter. However, the report we have, states that the signal was much reduced from previously, whether this is because of a different site, or lower power, is unknown. **Raiders- FM** were once again putting out a very good signal on 105.25MHz., but their programming keeps getting interrupted by 'dead air', which may point to a poor connection somewhere along the line. In the East London area, on this frequency, an extremely strong soul station blotted out **Raiders** on Sunday last, 7th. This was possibly the Essex-based **Stomp- FM**, although no identification was heard. **Solar 93** have been heard every day this week, suggesting that they may well have re- introduced their old seven day a week format. **Galaxy Radio**, new on 103.0MHz., has the usual jazz/ soul format. They are announcing a 24 hour, seven day per week schedule. They have given out a mailing address... 55A Gordon Road, London SE15. **Radio Gemma** were heard on 10th Feb., from 22:30 until 23:00, on 106.0MHz., with a pop/ rock format. They announced transmissions only on Wednesday evenings, on 89.9Mhz. They disappeared abruptly at 23:00. They gave out a telephone number, with an answer- phone... 01 863 7658.

Stations heard this weekend include.... **LGR** (88.4), **Groove- FM** (89.6), **RJR** (90.0 st.), **Passion** (90.6), **Sina** (90.9), **Sky** (91.7 st.), **LWR** (92.2), **Studio- FM** (92.7), **Solar 93**, (93.0 st.), **Roots- FM** (93.2), **Kiss- FM** (93.9 st.), **RFM** (94.3), **City Radio** (94.5), **Girls- FM** (97.0), **Traffic Jam** (97.9), **TKO** (102.4 st.), **Time Radio** (103.7 st.), **JBC** (104.3), **GCR** (104.5), **Raiders** (105.2) and **Hits- FM** (105.5MHz.). Also heard was an unidentified West Indian station on 102.95MHz. Besides Fresh- FM, the station s missing include Rock to Rock, Faze 1 and K- Jazz.

THE SOUTH COAST. Not really any news from this area, but a good story from colleague, Ian.... "The IBA have installed a local relay on 96.9MHz. for 'Southern Sound' radio, which broadcasts to the Newhaven area of East Sussex. On Sunday last, 7th Feb., at approx. 23:15, during the 'Tommy Boyd phone- in programme', the 96.9MHz. relay was taken over by a pirate calling itself '**Jammers - FM**'. It took over the relay for about fifteen minutes and gave out a telephone number and address in the Peacehaven area of East Sussex, for listener contact. However, when the number was called, it turned out to be the local DTI officer's home telephone number! It is believed that the pirates were over - powering the input to the relay, which was taking the signal off 103.5MHz. Local pirates, **Energy - FM** and **ABC**, both based in Eastbourne, state that they were in no way connected with this 'hi- jacking', as they can only see it causing the DTI to clamp down on any station that comes on the air in the area. A phone call to Southern Sound on Monday, to ask their reaction, resulted in the station engineer confirming that the 96.9MHz. outlet was in fact, an off- air link from 103.5MHz., so listeners in that area should check 96.9MHz. to see if it happens again.

HERTS. We understand that **Radio Neptune** are still active on Sundays, between 11:00 and 14:00, on 1566kHz. Current mailing address is... 9 Concorde Drive, Hemel Hemstead, Hertfordshire. D.J.'s include... Dave Rodgers, Bill West, Tony Williams and another whose name is not certain.

MERSEYSIDE. **Radio Veronica 104** write and tell us that they continue on 104.75MHz., despite storm damage. (We listen to them each Sunday afternoon and evening and enjoy their varied programmes). They tell us that the new studio which would have enabled longer transmissions, was damaged however, and these plans are now shelved. Their address remains... 81 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17. The writer also mentions an unidentified station which tests each Sunday morning, on '192m'. Nothing at all is known about this one. The operator of **Liverpool Pirate Radio**, Phil Davies, was in touch in the week, and he told us that he continues to broadcast each Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 until 17:00, on 1404kHz. Low power prevents us logging this one. The current address is... 30 Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool

L11 2TD. Phil mentions a **Liverpool City Radio**, heard last Saturday around about 15:00, at the top end of the band (1611kHz?). This is possibly the same one mentioned above. The mystery on **Radio Merseywaves** last Sunday afternoon, continues, although we understand from several reports, that it was 'technical problems' in an adjacent flat, and not a raid, that forced them off the air. They apparently returned for a short spell about 20:00, but the adverse weather caused them to go off again. We did not hear them again until Friday morning, when they returned loud and clear, and problem- free, on 1242kHz. They have continued since, running through until quite early the next morning on some nights. Reports in this weekend, from various parts of the North West, suggest that the station's aerial is in a different position to last week. For the past two weeks, the signal has travelled to the Midlands with a quite audible signal, but this week, the reverse seems to have happened, with a poor signal in the Midlands, and an excellent one here in Blackpool. The microphone is also at a much higher and listenable level this week, although a lot of echo has been noted, suggesting an empty room (possibly a new location, yet again). 'International Sidney' is back, we are pleased to report, although, at this stage, we have not noted him on air, merely heard him mentioned in the line- up. Barry Noble has also returned, following the completion of his contract in the Canary Islands. The young lady (secretary), Elaine, filled in with overnight shows, last weekend, and a good response was reported for her 60's/70's music. Gigs are still heavily plugged, and two in Blackpool, now feature regularly, The Mariners Bar and Springs Nite Club. Charlie Pope and Alan Bates doing the honours at each. On Friday afternoon (12th), the DTI were the subject of much of the conversation on **Radio Merseywaves**. A raid on the station was suggested to be imminent and this resulted in the presenters only bringing in their older records to the studio. The present mailing address remains... 9 Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside, L46 7UW. Please do not put any station names on mail to land- based pirates.

Nothing has been heard from North Coast Radio this week, although they did say they would be missing for a couple of weeks, whilst they sorted out a new transmitter. **Radio Atlantis** have appeared regularly, on 1197kHz., and were noted with an excellent signal and good programming, on Monday last, Friday, yesterday, and again, today. Lots of adverts are aired and the station really seems to have got on its feet again.

Additionally on Sunday, **Veronica 104**, on 104.75MHz., joined the other two regulars, RMW and Atlantis, at 15:00. We stayed with this station last week, until close- down, which was at 22:15. They closed as usual with 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

CHESHIRE. **Outlook 963** was noted with a very powerful signal last Sunday, on 96.3MHz. Religious shows were aired, of course. We head it Cheshire, but we are not sure here. What we are sure of, is the fact that the transmitter is in a very high position, resulting in this excellent signal.

MANCHESTER. No details from anyone in this area were received this week. On a brief drive past the city, on the M62 motorway network, **ICR** were heard on 103.5MHz. The station seems very localised to Moss Side, as after only a couple of miles, Marcher Sound was once again, clearly audible.

RENFREWSHIRE. Only one station heard this past week, in this area, it being **Radio Mercury** on 96.1MHz. Their new schedule reads... Wednesday and Thursday, 19:00 to 22:00, Friday and Saturday, 19:00 to 21:00 and extra hours planned for future weeks. The station now has T- shirts available and these are on sale at the Virgin Megastore in Glasgow. A contact telephone number and address are both being announced, and we hope to mention these next week.

THE OFFSHORE STATIONS...THE VOICE OF PEACE.

We left the story last week, with the ship back at sea and programmes just resuming (3rd February). Reporters, Vered and Gali and D.J., Steve Cromby, continue.... "Going back to Ashdod for a moment, on 2nd February, the winds got much worse and the ship was being bashed about on the dockside, whilst in port. A 2 foot crack appeared in the hull, alongside the D.J. cabins(!), allowing water to enter the vessel. Four or five bucketsful every ten to fifteen minutes was the result. The crack was quickly patched up, but another storm like the one just experienced, may cause serious problems. A prompt trip to Haifa is imminent. The FM service is temporarily off at the time of writing

(6th Feb.), but is expected back quickly. Everyone on board is reported as 'OK'. Word from the cook is that he wishes to leave as soon as a replacement is found. \$200 per month, free board and possibly free flight out and back, accompany this position. Anyone interested should ring Tel Aviv 245560." Current line-up is still unsettled and the D.J. list reads as last week. 'Nick' is now understood to be Nick Bennett.

m.v. Communicator. As we went to print last Sunday teatime, our reporter on the spot, eagerly rang in to tell us that he had found the elusive ship. We left the story last week, you will re-call, with the ship having suddenly disappeared from its position in the river. The latest 'berth' was a scrapyard at Mistley, near Manningtree. The ship was found pointing in towards the bank, sat in the mud. On further attempted inspection our excited colleague was confronted by a lady and two vicious dogs, one of them a Doberman Pinscher. She knew little about the ship and what it was, and why several people were eager to inspect it. She said that the scrapyard had been requested by the harbour master at Harwich, to take the ship as it was getting in everyone's way. It would stay there until sold, but would not be scrapped at that yard. She went on to say that three men were on board, looking after it and when another formerly interested party arrived and was told this, he hastily retreated. On receiving several photographs this week (see 'New Merchandise'), taken on Friday 5th February, it appears that at that time there was nothing left in the 'on-air' studio, only a bench and several holes where the mixer and cartridge machines used to be. All the cartridge racks had also been removed from the walls. The old production studio had also been gutted, with only empty cart. racks and a few records left there. All the equipment, including reel-to-reel tape decks and mixer had also gone. It is not known at this point what else has been removed since, in fact, little more has emerged from any source, to report on.

CAROLINE. It was certainly better news for Radio Caroline this week, than for the m.v. Communicator, but first we start where we left off last Sunday (7th). Steve Masters appeared at 17:00, his usual slot, and programmed through until 21:00, when Steve Conway sat in for the first two hours of Rowena Wild's show. Steve Masters then returned at 23:00, and went through until 01:00 on Monday morning. From Monday until Thursday, the line-up was static, and a 24 hour schedule was in operation, with, at 05:00 Peter Philips... 09:00 Mike Dixon... 13:00 James Day... 17:00 Steve Masters... 21:00 Rowena Wild... 01:00 Richard Lee. Severe storms were again battering the m.v. Ross Revenge during the first part of the week. At one point, on Wednesday, James Day said that they were experiencing a Force 11 gale, and that of all the times he had served as a merchant seaman, the seas were the roughest he had ever come across. It was this particular day, when the shipping forecast for Thames and Dover gave out Force 10 to Hurricane Force 12. James told the listeners that he was actually stood up doing his show, and that all the equipment was taped down to stop it flying across the studio. The rough weather was causing big fluctuations in power, which on some occasions went so low that we thought they were off the air. However they survived once more, and by Friday morning the seas were calm enough for them to do some more aerial work. In fact, Peter Philips signed the station off at 08:00 on Friday morning (12th), and announced that they were going to try and get something up, and would be back in a couple of hours. In fact, the station was off the air for the rest of Friday, and also much of Saturday. Finally, at 20:11 on Saturday evening (13th), test tones were heard until 20:25, when non-stop music ensued. At 20:36, they left the air and didn't return until around 21:50. At 21:55, 'Caroline' by the Fortunes was played, and then at 22:00 Steve Conway announced the station was back on, and that they would be broadcasting throughout the night. He said that the new mast and array was now up, and that they would be going to christen the new mast. Steve Masters followed Steve Conway until 01:00, when the regular over-night presenter, Richard Lee, hosted until 05:00. At this point, the normal weekend schedule became apparent, with James Day from 05:00 until 09:00, and then Peter Philips. Peter made a lot of comments about the new system, saying that the whole ship's company had been on the back deck helping with the rigging, and they had finally achieved what they wanted to do. At one point he wondered if it had all been worth while, and asked listeners to write in, with their comments and reception reports. An aeroplane from FotoFlite was buzzing the ship on both

Friday and Saturday, taking pictures of the various stages of the aerial rigging operation. 819kHz is still silent, and we have no idea at present what is happening with regard to this service. Unconfirmed reports indicate that Radio Monique may be no more, as a recent raid in Holland resulted in the arrest of several of the staff / operators, and also that several of the religious organisations have withdrawn their programmes.

We did not hear the return last night, and it was not until about 09:30 this morning, when we tuned into Caroline 558, that we noticed a considerable difference to what we had been subject to since November. The signal was far superior and the station was pleasantly audible here, using a directional loop. We, and others, estimate the power to be about half what it before the 300 foot tower collapsed, but far, far better than with the make-do array. What do others think? Please let us know, then we can pass on any comments, which could prove helpful.

SHORT WAVE STATIONS...Today's log...14th February 1988.

6240kHz...W.L.R., at 12:03gmt.

6240kHz...RADIO RAINBOW, at 13:05gmt.

6240kHz...BOYNESIDE RADIO, at 13:06gmt.

6250kHz...ALTERNATIVE VATICAN RADIO, at 12:13gmt.

6271kHz...RADIO SOUTHSEA INT., at 09:01gmt.

6271kHz...RADIO LUCE, at 10:14gmt.

6271kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 11:15gmt.

6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:23gmt.

6290kHz...RADIO ORION, at 09:43gmt.

6300kHz...SPECTRUM LEISURE COMM., at 10:20gmt.

6300kHz...RADIO ORION, at 11:26gmt.

6915kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 10:19gmt.

7315kHz...UNID., at 11:02gmt.

7428kHz...RADIO STELLA, at 11:40gmt.

Conditions today were poor once again, with quite a short skip, but lots of noise on the band. Other loggers suffered a similar plight. Our logs are in BOLD type, other were rung in between 13:30 and 14:30, on (0253) 882017, from loggers in the Midlands, Norwich, Guernsey (Channel Islands) and Bremen (West Germany - Radiotelex).

WLR and Boyneside were relayed via Radio Rainbow Int. and were also heard on 1521kHz., AM, and 96.3MHz., FM, locally (Drogheda). Luce and Southsea were relayed via the transmitters of Radio Waves. Radio Southsea Int. have a mailing address of 10 Bromyard Crescent, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth PO6 3SP, England.

The correct mailing address of Radio Gemini is 32 Puller Road, Boxmore, Hemel Hemstead, Herts. HP1 1QN, and not as printed previously.

Amendments to last week's Sunday log, from Podney R. Sixe... 5295kHz... PFBS, at 10:50gmt., 6271kHz... Radio Luce, at 10:04gmt.

A Radio Tina with D.J., Robbo, was expected to be on air today, on 6815kHz. Nothing was heard by our reporters, it seems.

We have a bit of news of future programming from Radio Stella International. J.S. Willett, the well known DX'er (Short Wave Magazine, Practical Wireless, B&K, etc.), is to provide a DX section to the programming, as an alternative to free radio news which several stations put out. This type of thing has never before been done before, as far as we know, on a free radio station. Apparently the first show is 'in the can' and they hope to put one out once per month. The duration of the show is 15 - 20 minutes, and the first one is all about Medium Wave DX from USA, Canada and the Caribbean, heard at J.S. Willett's QTH in the last month, also featured are the 60/70 metre 'Tropo' stations, mainly African. We look forward eagerly to hearing the first show.

Steve Most writes and informs us that his court case for Radio Pamela was to take place on 10th February, at 14:30. We hope to report the outcome next week, but in the meantime, Steve tells us that a recent court case involving the operator of Radio Radar (raided the same day as himself), resulted in a one year conditional discharge, plus £100.00 costs for the operator. It appears from this case, that the DTI do need a warrant to enter premises, but if someone lets them in, then it is a different matter. In Steve's case, according to the DTI statement, one of the personnel in the building downstairs, let them in.

The WEEKLY REPORT

ANORAKS

The First with the News in Print

No. 199.....21st February 1988.

P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England...Price 20p.

The recent £400,000 funding by the Government, for the Radio Investigation Service of the DTI, appears to have allowed them to take a 'roadshow' around the country, with many areas being visited, pirates silenced, and much equipment confiscated. Areas affected, to our knowledge, outside London, include Nottingham, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Plymouth and Bristol. Operators are now going to have to be extra vigilant, by employing more look-outs and being even more inconspicuous in their operation if they wish to avoid detection and resultant prosecution.

WEEKLY REPORT & CUTTINGS is produced, printed and posted out each Sunday from Blackpool. To become a subscriber, the following weekly rates apply.... First Class (U.K.) and to E.E.C. countries, including Eire, 40p..... Second Class, (U.K. only), 35p..... To non - E.E.C. countries (Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, etc.), 45p..... To other parts of the world, (by air mail), 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate. An increase in postal charges is being considered for April. As we have recently adjusted our subscription rates, no changes will be necessary. We may even expect an improved service from the post office. Whether we get one though, remains to be seen. Sunday collections are also on the cards, that could mean some more first class subscribers would receive WR on Monday (some locals subscribers do now). Here's hoping. It may also mean that we have to bring printing deadlines forward an hour or two, in order to catch the proposed Sunday post.

ADVERTISE IN WEEKLY REPORT and get results for only a modest charge. A full page, actually inside WR, will cost you only £20.00, with a half page costing £11.00 and a quarter, £6.00. Simply send us your copy on white paper and we will see that in excess of 750 people, at home and abroad, receive your advert. We still print and include 'inserts' for as little as £15.00 for a single A5 side, and send them to our 650 U.K. subscribers. We will even distribute your own sheets for 1p per copy for A5, or 2p per copy for A4, and again, send them to all 650 U.K. subscribers. For further details, ring (0253) 882017 during office hours.

THE ANORAKS U.K. INFO - LINE will help you keep right ahead with the latest news, simply ring (0795) 511118 and hear a regularly up-dated three minute message. If you have news for us, then call (0795) 511119 and leave it after the whistle tone. Please note that 'news' must not include subscription and merchandise queries. These must be directed to P.O. Box 539, etc.

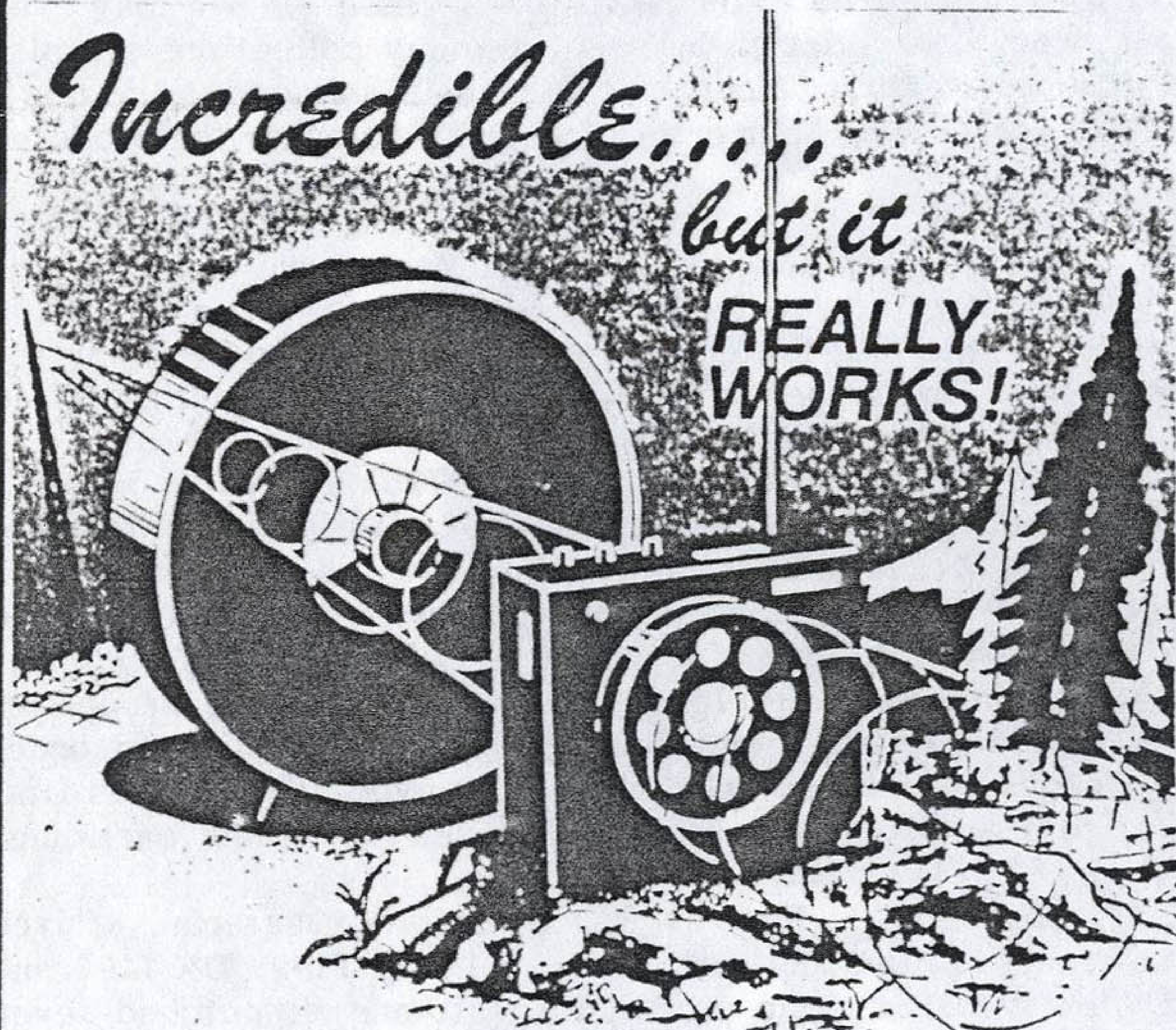
NEW MERCHANDISE. "Stevie Gordon's Guide to Working in Norway", whilst not exactly new, is well worth mentioning again, for anyone with this in mind. A neatly bound, well presented, 14 x A4 page booklet tells prospective D.J.'s heading for this lucrative market, what it's all about, the pitfalls and everything. Send £1.50 today, to A-UK, P.O. Box 539, etc..... Again, not new this week, but only recently arrived, the latest in our colour prints series..... "Communicator - The End?". Six super Jumbo, colour pics of the vessel, after its arrival for the second time, in Harwich. Inside and outside shots are featured and are quite excellent in quality. Order yours today, these may well be the last photos offered of the ship, if newspaper reports of scrapping are to be believed. The price is £3.00 and all outstanding orders have been despatched, so there will be no delay whatsoever, you may expect them back by return of post..... It looks increasingly likely that we may be offering a further set (courtesy of FotoFlite of Ashford, Kent, once again) of Caroline with her new aerial array, very shortly. As always, watch this space..... One or two correspondents seem to have got a bit mixed up regarding current issues of our associate's magazines. Monitor: Issue 36 was the last published (Summer 1987). Issue 37 looks likely to be available round about Easter time, all being well. Offshore Echo's: Issue 69 (December 1987) was available just before Christmas. Issue 70 is set to appear during March sometime. Current prices are £1.90 each. Advance orders may be placed for Offshore Echo's only (stressing Issue 70), at this price, although word from France tells us that an increase to £2.00 seems unavoidable..... Finally, don't forget to take advantage of the current offer (for the month of February) of a 'de-luxe version of the Loop/ Frame Aerial' for just £28.00 (instead of £35.00). We used to say that every serious MW listener should have one. We now say that every MW listener must have one' and we will not give up until they do! You will not regret it, as amazing results have been achieved with their use. We may even start printing some testimonials to prove it! Now in stock and awaiting despatch, no delays at all, by return (post permitting, that is!). A further addition to our de-luxe model (the idea, often used by us, here, but never offered as an extra) is a facility to use the 'loop' as an Aerial Tuning Unit for a long wire. How many people have a long wire without an ATU? Lots we guess (we, for one, once upon a time!). For an extra £5.00, we will supply

a socket for you to plug in your long wire for medium wave use. Get the best out of your aerial wire with the loop, but do remember that the loop loses its directional properties once the long wire is plugged in. Anyone wishing to order this as an extra would be advised to maybe telephone us first to discuss the type of socket required for their particular purpose.

NEW ARRIVALS. Not as much reading material arrived this week, but two editions of the weekly Play- DX (492 and 493) came in the same parcel of post, one despatched seven days after the other! Both include up to date loggings from stations in the medium and tropical bands. Other schedules and QSL information gathered by members are also included. No. 492 includes the regular Latin American DX report, which is all in Spanish, although the rest of PlayDX is in English. For a sample copy of this 6 page, A4 publication write to Dario Monferini, via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milano, Italy..... **Radiotelex** is your bi- weekly news- sheet on shortwave free radio activity. It includes both logs and news from this medium. For more details write to Radiotelex, P.O. Box 10 37 71, D-2800 Bremen 1, West Germany..... Finally this week, the 'soon to be weekly' **Now Radio Newsletter**. Issue 46 contains information, reports and features on both legal and free radio stations in its 32 x A5 pages. The address for this publication is P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants NN16 0NW..... Finally, not an item to read, but one to aid MW radio reception... In issue 176, dated 13th September 1987, we re-produced a small piece out of a magazine called 'New Dimensions' from Roy Masters, mentioning 'Select-A-Tenna'. We sent off to Wisconsin, U.S.A., for further details and were delighted to receive such literature in November. At a cost of \$49.95, we ordered a de-luxe version and were advised that it was despatched on 18th January. It arrived this week and we were quite surprised to see the box, as it was about the size of a box which would have contained about ten L.P.'s. On careful opening, the contents were found to be exactly the size of an L.P., but two inches thick, made of brown plastic, with two legs on the bottom and a tuning knob, not unlike the one on our basic models, in the centre. The 'Select-A-Tenna' was very well produced, extremely compact, neatly finished, with gold lettering around the dial, and quite sturdy, certainly not likely to get damaged by rough handling. Whilst it performed as indicated in the quite explicit instructions, it was noticeably less powerful than its

counterpart, our 'Frame/ Loop Aerial', without question, due to its size (about a quarter the size of ours). It did exactly the same job, but not as good by any means, although it did have many advantages... the size and compactness being by far the main one, although the well finished product must warrant a mention, along with its robustness. At £30.00, including postage and packing, the 'disc' or 'loop' compares well with ours, and for someone with very limited room (or a nagging wife or mother!), it would be a good buy, if available in this country, although 'results-wise' the A-UK version is miles ahead. We did hope to learn a few things about it, which we could adapt to ours, but apart from one (mentioned earlier), only a few descriptive words from their brochure are likely to be 'borrowed' for future use by us. Finally in passing, a feature in Medium Wave News recently, on 'loops', mentioned a 'magic disc' to be featured later. We wonder if this is the one in question, we eagerly await their next issue.....

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SELECT-A-TENNA

THE NEW STANDARD IN AM RADIO TECHNOLOGY

TAPE OFFER. We stay in the United States, and Chicago in particular, for the first two of this week's selections. Tape 160 features a station with an usual easy-listening format... instrumentals and slow pop songs. It has the call letters **WNUA- FM...** Onto a more 'rocky' format, for Tape 161, and we take a listen to **WLUP- FM**, better known as 'The Loop'. Plenty of rock 'golden oldies' are featured on this particular station, for fans of this type of music (like us!), with Jethro Tull being featured heavily. Both these recordings are in stereo, and were made just two weeks ago. The last recording this week, brings us back to Europe, and **Radio Caroline**. Although now back on high power, Mike Dixon, was one of the presenters who left the ship shortly after the power increase. As a result, many readers did not get a chance to hear any of his shows, so as Tape 162, we feature Mike's mid - morning programme of 8th February. This was recorded in Ipswich. All the above recordings are 90 minutes in length, and cost just £2.00 each, including postage and packing. Delays with the despatch of tapes are fairly minimal this week, despite a colossal response for Tape 157 (Radio Sunk) from last week. We really have worked hard on this one! It looks increasingly like this tape may feature some of the last 'broadcasting' ever to emanate from the m.v. Communicator. We hope we are wrong, here, however.

1988 FREE RADIO CONVENTION. Monitor Magazine, Offshore Echo's and Anoraks U.K.(M.O.A Promotions) are

currently planning a free radio convention in Blackpool. The event, to be called "Communicate '88" will be held in the Autumn of the year. A meeting was held this week with all editors present, and the wheels are now set in motion. We would invite your comments on this all day affair (probably a Saturday, during the famous Blackpool Illuminations). Suggestions about any aspect will be most welcome. The place and date of the event will be announced as soon as possible and you can rest assured that all information will be available well in advance.

WANTED. Good stereo recordings of Kenny Everett on Capital Radio. Telephone Rob with details, on (061) 902 9157 after 18:00, any evening.

WANTED. Single record or album of the songs "American Generation", by the Ritchie Family (1979), and "One For You, One For Me", by La Bionda (1978). State price and condition when writing, to Radiotelex, P.O. Box 10 37 71, 2800 Bremen 1, West Germany.

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RADIO STATION NEWS...IRELAND.

Co. MONAGHAN. We now have an address for **KISS FM**. It is... Unit 2, The Mall, Old Cross Square, Monaghan... Tel. (047) 84028. The studios are now almost entirely complete and apparently looking very nice. The main one has a Soundtech broadcast desk, 2 x LAD turntables, 2 x Technics CD's, 2 x Broadcast Electronics triple cart. machines and a Beyer microphone. The reproduction studio has 2 x Revox PR 99's, 1 x Revox B 77, 1 x Otari 8 track, a Broadcast Electronics cart. recorder and an AHB 16 - 8 - 2 mixer. Interviews are currently taking place for D.J.'s, news and office staff. Programmes are expected to start within weeks,

despite losing 160 feet of their mast, leaving just 30 feet remaining, in recent storms. 3 phase power has now been installed on both AM and FM sites. Neighbour, **KITS- FM** now back on the air after the storm, lost just two days of broadcasting, 10th and 11th February. They continue on 100.9MHz., with slightly less power, it appears, than before. **Northern Star**, whilst on 999kHz.AM, are still working to get their FM's operating satisfactorily. Likewise, at **Big 'M'**, they are carrying out improvements to their FM aerial array.

Co. LONGFORD. Reports from this area tell us that Independent Radio Longford are still on test transmission, on 98.7MHz.FM. The sound is reported as good and power is thought to be about 50 watts. The address is IRL, New Street, Longford. Longford Community Radio, silenced by last week's storms, re-appeared on Friday (12th), on 107.1kHz.

Co. CAVAN. **Breffni Regional Radio**, another victim of last week's storms, was apparently broadcasting normally on 95.6MHz.FM., only. **Erneside Radio**, off for the best part of the week, on 125.1kHz., were on and off FM, 97.8 and 107.0MHz., throughout.

Co. WESTMEATH. **Signal Stereo 102** was one we missed listing last week, as being off air, due to the storms.

Co. MAYO. **Midwest Radio** are reportedly off 123.3kHz., for some reason. They continue on 133.2kHz., as before, we understand. We are unable to log either at present due to Boyneside Radio's transmitters on both channels.

Co. GALWAY. **County Sound Radio** are now located in Galway city, following a move recently from nearby Tuam.

Co. WATERFORD. During some programmes recently, it was mentioned that a British film crew were in the station making a 45 minute documentary on WLR, the longest established local radio station in Ireland (?). We must watch out for this on TV sometime. Across at ABC in Barronstrand Street, everything sounds fine, according to our reporter. He tells us that this is the station where the adverts sounds better than the programmes! A live broadcast was made from Dungarvan last week but one, in connection with a holiday exhibition there. This was relayed only via the Dungarvan transmitter, on 88.4MHz. Normal programmes were covering the South East on 101 and 103MHz.

Co. DUBLIN. Everything seems all quiet again, here, as everyone awaits with bated breath the outcome of the legislation now going through the Dail (Parliament). Apparently the Bill has had its third reading and could become law after Easter. This may give the existing stations about two months to close down. We all await to see what happens now, as station owners must be very nervous and not likely to spend anything further on the stations until something is known definite. At **Q 102**, the news service has been dropped altogether (the D.J. reads the headlines), in an attempt to save and possibly re-coup some of the money invested in this super-pirate. One wonders if **Sunshine 101's** £20,000 giveaway will go ahead amidst all this uncertainty. The thing is getting heavy promotion, and, as the promo says, 'cash calls have been tripled and someone is going to win £20,000'. Maybe it will drag on and on, maybe it won't, we'll have to wait and see, again. We'll have to stay tuned!

LAND - BASED STATIONS.

LONDON WEEKEND SURVEY.

12th - 16th February 1988.

This weekend, touched down on 36 stations, 11 in stereo.

Missing / Not Heard :- C.D.R.(?) - N.M.R. - Rock to Rock - Faze 1(?) - Soul FM(?) - Playback - Starpoint - D.B.C. and G.R.L.

Returned :- Passion - PRS - Sangam and Ram Jam.

Spring is in the air, as not only the plants begin to bloom, but Privateer Radio also. Although several stations lost transmitters, the cause is not known, and the number of operators continues to rise, with the absence of the DoTI people.

South London stereo newcomer, **ICE**, have moved slightly down band to 102.65. This gets them out of the way of North London's **WNL** (102.85), but they now shield ILR regional popper Radio Mercury, from their lucrative South London market.

Fresh (103.35), or **Super Fresh** as they now ID on air, probably lost a transmitter on Friday night/ Saturday morning. From having a signal which was an able rival to Capital

Radio, for coverage in SE England, they have relinquished the lead in the power game stakes. Coming back on Saturday in the next door slot of 103.25 didn't help much either. As the side splatter from, the much increased in power, **Galaxy FM** (103.05) is helping to obliterate **Fresh** in large sections of London.

Friday through to Sunday, saw much pushing of St. Valentine's Day's dedications. **Fresh** ex - drivetime jock now dropped back to the lunchtime slot, **Chris John**, was making much of it. He spent a lot of time running dedications which were as near the mark as could be done. Many that were well over the mark were in patois.

Still with **Fresh**, and both they, and **City Radio** (94.55), have been extensively promoting their stereo services, although, neither are currently operating one. This may herald the return of a stereo service, which has been missing for some time now. Until Saturday evening, **Fresh** certainly had enough power being pumped out to carry a good quality stereo signal. Actually back in stereo this week, are market co - leaders **Time Radio** (103.80), although, whilst their signal is clean, they are not appreciably louder. Also back in stereo for the first time since the end of January, are Tottenham's reggae rockers **RJR** (90.0), with a signal now beginning to push back over most of London. With 11 operators putting out a stereo signal for at least part of the time, it looks as though things are improving for those who like their music to suit both ears.

Southall's Indian swinger, **SRI** (90.8) have been running more and more adverts in English, many for Ealing Council. This week saw the return of Southall near neighbours, **Sangam** (90.5), with a strong signal which was later obliterated by Brixton soulsters, **PRS** (90.45), on their return on Saturday morning. **PRS** have additional problems. **Passion Radio** (90.65) are back with a very strong signal which is splattering all over **PRS** in the Brixton/ Lambeth area. With **Ram Jam** (89.6) back, and **PRS** and **Passion** on air, albeit intermittently, this leaves only **RTR** (90.25) and **Faze 1** (90.95), to return, to complete the Brixton front line.

After two days of anonymous, low level, but not low power, near non - stop reggae tapes, programming proper started on Sunday 14th February, for the re-launch of Brixton reggae rocker, **Ram Jam Radio** (89.6). From the micro power of old, which barely got them out of Brixton, on their old 89.95 slot, they are now covering most of South and Central London. For some, this is bad news on two counts. **Golden Groovers**, **NMR** were hoping to re - start programming soon on this slot, but this will now be difficult, if not impossible. Secondly, there are two horrendous spurious signals on 88.65 and 90.40. They are really only noticeable in the Brixton / Lambeth areas, but nevertheless, they are destroying near Brixton neighbours, **PRS** (90.45), and knocked out the unidentified tests which were being carried out on Sunday on 88.65MHz. This may mean that **CDR** are about to get their act together after weeks of intermittent testing.

R- FM (94.3) were on the air for a full Sunday. It is also believed that it was they who were heard testing a high power stereo rig briefly on Friday night. Both **Raiders FM** (105.3) and **Hits FM** (105.5) were heard on Saturday and Sunday. **Raiders** were not on overnight as usual. Saturday, and **Hits** suffered a bit of side splattering from **Raiders**, especially in Central London, but they did carry on beyond their usual closedown time. Sunday saw **Hits** just playing back to back tapes, and they, like **R - FM** earlier, were also testing a stereo rig.

Well, we're off to see the world again, for a couple of weeks. Especially that part off the North American coast. So, the next London Weekend Survey will cover the weekend of March 4th - 7th."

Our thanks to Sid, we should like to wish him a happy holiday and look forward to hearing from him on his return.

LONDON UP - DATE. **Faze 1** finally returned to air after a long absence, and resumed transmissions on their old frequency of 91.0MHz. Almost all stations have been heard as normal this past week, with only **Raiders FM** (105.2), **Rock to Rock** (90.2), **K Jazz** (94.3) and **G.C.R.** on 104.3MHz missing. **Raiders FM** actually had their transmitter taken by the DTI, following their regular closedown last Monday morning at 02:00. Apparently, the lift room in the flats they were operating from, was broken into, and the mains cable cut. No receipt was left. **K - Jazz** are rumoured to have had internal disagreements, and neither they or joint station **Starpoint** have been heard for some time. **Ram Jam Radio** (89.6) now seem to be getting out very well,

since they changed frequency. A new station was heard testing on 105.5MHz., on Saturday night, calling itself **Hot FM**. Lots of reggae and soul were featured. This caused a few problems for **Hits FM** (also 105.5), even though they themselves were getting out better. Stations heard on the air this week include **London Greek Radio** (88.4), **Ram Jam Radio** (89.6), **RJR** (90.0), **P.R.S.** (90.4), **Passion Radio** (90.6), **Faze 1** (91.0), **Sky FM** (91.7), **L.W.R.** (92.1), **Studio FM** (92.7), **Solar 93** (93.0), **Roots FM** (93.2), **Kiss FM** (93.95), **Rock FM** (94.3), **City Radio** (94.5), **Girls FM** (97.0), **Traffic Jam** (97.9), **TKO** (102.4), **WNK** (102.8), **Fresh FM** (103.3), **Time Radio** (103.7) and **Hits FM** (105.5).

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MANCHESTER. Following a rather quiet period in the city, free radio activity increased a little last week. **LC.R.** (Independent Community Radio) continue with their 7 day operation on 103.5MHz., serving the black community. As mentioned last week, their signal is very localised to Moss Side, and is understood to be weak in Stockport, the location of one of our correspondents. **I.B.C.** (The Illegal Broadcasting Co.) were on the air on Sunday 14th February, on 104.4MHz. They were announcing that they were coming from a location in Manchester City centre, but as with **I.C.R.**, their signal towards Stockport was weak. After being off the air for some weeks now, **F.A.B. FM** (Free Alternative Broadcasting Company) are reported to have made a return to the air, on three frequencies, two being on FM (97 and 94.2MHz), and another on medium wave (1017kHz). With a larger number of presenters than previous, they now broadcast between 12:00 on Sunday, through until 07:00 on Monday morning. All types of music are featured in this new schedule, with each programme specialising in one particular format. The 94.2MHz. outlet is in stereo.

Today, a new station was heard from the Tameside area, calling itself **W.B.L.S.** Playing what now seems to be the usual dance, funk and soul type music, they were broadcasting on 102.4MHz. No more details are known about this station.

CHESHIRE. The religious programmes broadcast via the station calling itself **Outlook** (96.3MHz.) each Sunday and Monday evenings, seem to be becoming more sporadic, as they were not heard by anyone last weekend.

YORKSHIRE, HUMBERSIDE and DERBYSHIRE. Activity in Leeds seems to have quietened down, following the raid on **ABC FM** two weeks ago (see this week's cuttings). With both studio and main transmitter site raided, it will probably be some time before they get back on the air. In the meantime, the new station, **Radio Horizon** (91.8) has been extending its hours in order to fill the gap left by the loss of **ABC**. Horizon are now announcing as 'your weekend station - but now having to broadcast all week long, so you can hear the sort of music you want'. **Music City Radio** (90.3) has been heard during the evenings once more, but with not as many hours, presumably due to heavy **DTI** activity.

Across in Hull, **Radio Takoradi** (105) have been active for the past few weekends. On Friday 29th January, between 18:00 and 19:00, they conducted a test transmission 'in preparation for 24 hour weekend broadcasts'. The following Friday, 5th February, more tests were heard, but just with a continuous loop tape, which consisted of a jingle played every minute, along with silence in between. This went on from 18:00 until 19:15. The following night, Saturday 6th, programming consisted of an old 'K.D. Connection' tape, between 17:30 and 19:30. Last weekend, non-stop soul was heard on Friday 12th, between 18:00 and 19:15, with no announcements. Programming finally returned to normal on Saturday 13th February, with **K.D.** signing on at 17:30 and programming through until 19:30. He gave no mention to the 24 hour operation, but was sounding much more professional than before. A new slogan was mentioned a lot - 'This is a government health warning. Music can seriously damage your health. The only cure is to listen to **Radio Takoradi** 105 FM, each and every weekend'. The **Takoradi** 105 'powerplays' have been re-introduced between 18:45 until 19:15 each Saturday.

In South Yorkshire, several stations have been on the air this past week. **Ocean Sound** (106.3 - stereo) made a rare appearance on the evening of Sunday 7th February. The reason given for **Ocean Sound** not being on the air, was that the studio had again been refurbished. **Rebel Radio** (105.3) was on air again on Tuesday 16th February, with a short programme lasting one hour. Signal and audio were reported as being good. Finally, after a long period of not being heard, **W.L.N.G.** (104.95) was back on the air on Tuesday night (16th). The broadcast started at 20:30 and finished at 22:30. They were also on the air, on Thursday 18th, and according to announcements they now expect to be on the air regularly. Their mailing address is Media Promotions, P.O. Box 32 Scunthorpe. Letters should not be addressed to **W.L.N.G.**

Just out of the area, in Nottingham, **Heatwave Community Radio** (105.0) continues to broadcast daily, and many in South Yorkshire are able to receive the station quite well.

BRISTOL. Here is one of the areas where the **DTI** have been active recently, with one station falling prey to them last week. Terry takes up the story on the days before this happened. On Friday 12th February, one of the soul twins signed on **B.A.D. Radio** (106.95) at 17:00, and announced programming through until 03:00 on Saturday morning. Down the band, on 104MHz., **Radio F.T.P.** were also signing on, however their microphone level was so low, that programmes could not continue. They later re-emerged at 17:30, and continued as normal. Both stations were giving plugs to a nightclub called 'Mozarts', where a special Valentine's show was to be held on 13th February. **F.T.P.** were also trying out an echo machine, and although this created quite a good effect, at times too much was used, and the voices became difficult to understand. At around 20:36, it was noticed that the 'carrier' which jammed out **B.A.D. Radio** last week, had appeared on top of **F.T.P.** Saturday afternoon, 13th February, saw **B.A.D. Radio** come on the air at 15:00, with 'Dirty Den'. Everything went fine until 15:46, when the unknown carrier, once again impaired their signal, and by 16:49 they were inaudible. In fact, the station was raided that day by officials of the **DTI**, and according to the local newspaper report, transmitter, turntables, tape deck, records and cassettes were taken from a house in Colston Road, Easton. **Radio F.T.P.** continued into the evening, 'playing to the community', with at 20:00, the **D.J.** being joined by his wife and child. Throughout this programme it was stressed that **F.T.P.** would be leaving the air at 22:00, and would not be back until Tuesday 16th, at 17:00. Perhaps news of the raid on **B.A.D. Radio** had caused them to close early. Nothing was heard on Sunday 14th, except for a few low power music tests on 104MHz.

Tuesday dawned, and **Radio F.T.P.** were on the air intermittently early in the evening, but had a lot of transmitter problems, it cutting on and off. The station did make it to the air on Wednesday night, with presenter 'Master C' until sign off at just after midnight. We now await to see if the new station has the same problems as B.A.D. Radio.

PLYMOUTH. **Radio Banana**, the student station mentioned in the cuttings this week, are understood to have made their first broadcast on Thursday 11th February. They were raided the next evening by the DTI, so it must be assumed from this speed, that they were tipped off about the broadcasts. The raid was understood to have been a bit heavy handed, as 4 policemen and 2 DTI officials smashed the door to gain entry, never bothering to ring the bell first. The station broadcast on 105.9MHz with a very strong stereo signal.

ESSEX. Activity in this area seems to be on the increase once again. **Radio Lola** continues to operate on 105MHz. each Sunday, covering the Chelmsford area. **Canvey Radio North** are now operating on much higher power, and as a result are getting out very well, both around Benfleet, and onto Canvey Island. Their frequency is currently 90.8MHz, and last Sunday, they broadcast for the full day. Sister station, **Canvey Community Radio (C.C.R.)** are currently off the air due to other commitments.



IT'S A MUST!!

Canvey Community Radio.

93.1 MHz.FM. SUNDAY'S 10am, TILL LATE.
FOR RECORD REQUESTS.
P.O.BOX 8 CANVEY ISLAND ESSEX. SS8 7TX

RENFREWSHIRE. Just one station has been monitored in the area this week, and this being the regular **Radio Mercury** who broadcast on 96.1MHz. each night from Wednesday until Saturday. Their current address is c/o Taplin, 119 Copelaw Street, Govanhill, Glasgow. Their T - shirts are now available in several shops in Glasgow, priced at £5.00.

MIDLANDS. There is still plenty of activity in this area, with no reports of any DTI activity. Both **P.C.R.L. Radio** (103.5) and **Enterprise FM** (90.9) have operated throughout the week, with their 24 hour schedules. The two Asian stations **M.A.C.R.** (106.0), and **A.R.B.** (105.0) also operate daily, but it is not sure for how many hours. The third Asian station has finally been identified as the original **Asian Community Radio** and broadcast on 105.7MHz. **Powerhouse 105** (105.0) have been heard on the air every night in the week, after 18:00. Their address is c/o 2 Green Wood Avenue, Rowley Regis, West Midlands B65 9NL. The station is understood to be operating with just 10 watts at present, with an increase to 25 watts expected soon. **Second City Radio** (95MHz) were heard until last Monday, but have not been monitored since. The only other operation has been **Soul City Radio** (103.8), who were on the air as normal, with their Sunday morning programmes.

MERSEYSIDE. Both **Radio Atlantis** (1197kHz.) and **Radio Merseywaves** (1242kHz.) were on the air last Monday (15th), finishing off their weekend's broadcasts. Radio Atlantis actually went through until 18:00 with Rick Dane, this being an extra hour to the normally announced 17:00 schedule. At this particular point, Rick said that there were no lights in the studio, and he eventually ended up doing his programme in the dark. During the afternoon, Steven Bishop mentioned that the engineers had been working hard, and that next week would see a big increase in power to give the station a much larger service area.

On Friday, both the above stations were on with their regular schedules, RMW having tested for some time on Thursday evening. Radio Atlantis closed at 18:00, and Radio Merseywaves went on late into the evening.

Radio Merseywaves seem to be having a few problems with a very loud hum on their channel. This became very apparent on Saturday afternoon, when we were listening. This is an off - channel hum, and not anything to do with their studio wiring. It is not known at this time, whether the Radio Merseywaves crystal is slightly off 1242kHz., or if it is one of the Irish stations who operate on this frequency, who have a problem (this is quite possible). Listeners in the Merseyside area will not hear this hum, but at our distance it is more apparent. We shall listen out during the week, when RMW are not on the air, to see where the problem is coming from. The number of listeners to RMW must be quite large, as in a long phone - in on Saturday afternoon, every time the receiver was replaced,

it started ringing again. Listeners were calling to give their opinions on the station, its music policy etc. There was certainly a good response. We mentioned last week that the signal was getting out very well to the North, but not as good to the South, since their move to this present location about three weeks ago. A correspondent in Inverness writes and tells us that he was able to receive Radio Merseywaves there last weekend, with a strong signal, quite early in the morning. Obviously the signal is skipping at this time of changing conditions from night to day, but all the same, it is quite a catch for our man up there and quite an achievement for the station. Station supremo, Burt Williams, made one of his fairly regular appearances on Sunday afternoon

and featured a documentary on the life of the late John Lennon, along with a selection of his music, in typical 'not to be missed' Burt William's style. Further documentaries were promised for the coming weeks, hopefully, DTI permitting. Some further problems for the station occurred during Burt's programme. A station could be heard underneath the RMW signal. We took it to be an Irish one, but apparently it turned out to be Storeton Community Radio, as the station identified during a quiet spell on RMW. Close proximity of the two transmitters is thought to be the cause of this problem.

Tuning around on Saturday afternoon, a carrier was noted precisely on 1350kHz., with the French station, normally audible, being heard only in the background. A telephone call later on, confirmed that this was a test in preparation for the return of **North Coast Radio**, following the DTI taking a transmitter two weeks ago. The modulation section of the transmitter still has to be finished, and so only a blank carrier was being transmitted. The signal strength here in Blackpool, was a little lower than that of Radio Merseywaves at this stage.

Storeton Community Radio made a return to the air today (21st February) on their old frequency of 1026kHz. Hours of broadcast were reported to be between 10:00 and midnight. Unfortunately, their crystal was slightly off channel, and although their signal was strong, it was causing a low frequency heterodyne, making listening here difficult. Nevertheless, the station was on air and many of its former presenters were heard doing programmes. Also joining the above three (Storeton, Atlantis and RMW), was **Veronica 104**, who appeared 'on the nail' at 15:00 with full programming, usually till about 22:00 or just after.



STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO

292 Metres MediumWave:1026 KHz.

THE OFFSHORE STATIONS.....RADIO CAROLINE. There was certainly plenty of excitement on board this week, which resulted in a mass of comments being banded about on the air. We left the station in last week's report on its first day back with higher power after several weeks on only a hundred watts or so. The transmitter kept tripping out on several occasions, so they obviously still had some work to do on the array. At this point there had still been no change of staff, and the line - up on Sunday afternoon was... 13:00 Mike Dixon, 17:00 Steve Masters, 21:00 Rowena Wild and 01:00 Richard Lee. Monday morning (15th) arrived, and at 09:00, Peter Philips announced throughout his show, that they would be ceasing transmissions for an hour or so, to 'tweak the aerial system', and promised they would be better still when they returned. Apologies were made to the listeners, for their un-reliable programming for the past few days. In fact, they did not return until later in the evening, with intermittent test tones between 19:19 and 20:23, followed by continuous music until 20:51. At 20:55, 'Caroline' by the Fortunes was played, followed by the on - hour announcement by James Day. It was then noticed that a change of staff had occurred, as some new voices were heard into the night. Firstly was Robbie Jay, who programmed between 21:00 and 01:00. He was followed by an American just calling himself Alex. At the time of writing, we have no more details of the backgrounds of either

new presenters. The signal on their return was much improved on that of the previous day, and when we were able to hear it in Blackpool, on Tuesday morning, even at this distance of over 300 miles, it was audible between around 08:00 and 16:00, which is quite good for this time of year. Mike Dixon, Steve Conway, Rowena Wild and Steve Masters all left the ship on Monday, with just two replacements, both being new recruits to the Ross Revenge. As a result, the crew is a little short, with James Day and Peter Philips having to double as both newsreaders and presenters. James reads the morning news, with Peter on the lunch-time bulletin. Later in the afternoon, the bulletins have been shared between the two, Peter on 16th and 17th, and James on 18th and 19th. On his breakfast show on Tuesday morning, Peter Philips announced that it was 3 years ago that day, that he first joined the station. Greetings were sent out over the air that day, to Fergie, the Captain of one of the Olau Line ferries who used to slow his vessel down so all aboard could see the Ross Revenge. He is apparently now going to have a three month holiday. Peter also commented that 'the crew on the Olau Britannia must think that we are quite mad out here, with a different aerial array in place every time they see us.' He hoped that this time however, it will stay like this for a while. The line - up for this week, with the hours now being reduced to 20, has been... 05:00 Peter Philips... 09:00 James Day... 13:00 Richard Lee... 17:00 Robbie Jay... 21:00 Alex... 01:00 Closedown. The station was still on the air on Saturday night until at least 23:10. There was a break between 17:35 and 18:20, due to severe tripping of the transmitter, when Richard Lee apologised for them having to go off the air. Yesterday, James Day was heard to say that the engineer Peter was playing with hundreds of feet of cable underneath the 558 studio, because they were starting a new project during the calm weather. He stated that he couldn't tell us any more than that. Perhaps they are attempting to get the shortwave service back on the air. As usual, only time will tell.

Finally, we have received scores of reception reports and the general picture seems quite good. The signal is once again very strong, although (naturally) not quite as good as pre - November. All the same, it is penetrating much further inland and seems to be reaching most of the places it reached previously. We can confirm these reports and say that we, too, find the signal about 80% of what it was pre - November. Many correspondents do praise our loop/ frame aerial in their quest for perfect reception, we might add, so it might be an idea to consider one now, at the pre - increase price, if you are not getting excellent reception.

Also, it must be an appropriate time to say well done to those on board, particularly Peter Chicago, Peter Philips, James Day and Steve Conway, and not forgetting the others on board who have helped in many ways. They, in particular, have done a first class job and in the case of Steve, for keeping the station going, along with Chris Kennedy, just before Christmas, of Peter Chicago, for putting out some sort of signal, against all odds, and of all the others, for erecting the new mast (several times, we believe!), during January and February - not the best times of the year!!! Well done all! (Our thanks to Mike from Leigh-on-Sea for wording the last paragraph, which is re - iterated by ever so many people.

m.v. Communicator. There is not a lot to report about the ship this time around. It is still sat in the mud next to a scrapyard at Mistley. We understand that Mike Barrington is back on board, to look after the vessel, and that the majority of the doors have been sealed up, except those required by the skeleton crew. All the studio equipment has gone, but the transmitters are still on board. We can now only wait and see what will happen to the vessel. Will this really be the end, or is another saga about to begin? One thing which might be of interest to any readers who plan to make a trip to see the ship, is that the owners of the yard are now a little fed up with trespassers on their premises. They have two rather large dogs (both Dobermans, we understand) and a letter in this week from one of our subscribers, tells us that the owners threatened to set the dogs loose on them if they didn't go away.

THE VOICE OF PEACE. Our latest report, dated last Sunday (14th) comes via Vered and Gali Kravitzki, who tell us that a new voice has again been heard on the air. His name, Peter Bread and this gives a line- up of... 00:00 Steve Cromby, 03:00 Paul Fraser, 06:00 John McDonald, 09:00 Ian Hudson, 13:00 Martin Murphy, 16:00 John McDonald, 18:00 Paul

Fraser, 19:30 Steve Cromby, 22:00 Peter Bread. Currently on shore leave... Kenny Page and Michael O'Sullivan. Since 5th February, only the AM transmitter on 1539kHz., has worked, however, on 11th, new equipment arrived at the ship, and this was installed resulting in test transmissions being noted on FM. Apparently this is now working satisfactorily and the overall sound is reported to be greatly improved. We were aware that new equipment was on the way, but exactly what has been installed is not, at this point, known. Future reports from the ship should fill us in.

SHORTWAVE STATIONS...Log for Sun. 21st February 1988.

6210kHz...R.T.R., at 10:57gmt.
6218kHz...PREMIER RADIO INT., at 11:07gmt.
6225kHz...UNID., at 09:35gmt.
6240kHz...W.L.R., at 12:03gmt.
6240kHz...BOYNESIDE RADIO, at 13:05gmt.
6271kHz...RADIO INDIGO, at 09:34gmt.
6271kHz...RADIO WAVES INT., at 10:26gmt.
6280kHz...RADIO ASTRAL INT., at 09:45gmt.
6280kHz...4IFR, at 09:22gmt.
6280kHz...WESTSIDE RADIO INT., at 10:51gmt.
6280kHz...RADIO ANDREA., at 11:57gmt.
6300kHz...KIWI RADIO, at 09:09gmt.
6300kHz...SPECTRUM LEISURE COMM., at 10:32gmt.
6300kHz...RADIO ORION, at 11:08gmt.
6300kHz...C.L.C.G., at 13:50gmt.
6306kHz...BRITAIN RADIO INT., at 11:35gmt.
6318kHz...W.L.R., at 09:29gmt.
6550kHz...KLA RADIO, at 12:34gmt.
6635kHz...RADIO INSOMNIA, at 12:32gmt.
6850kHz...RADIO SKYWAVE INT., at 11:03gmt.
6915kHz...RADIO DUBLIN, at 09:44gmt.
7370kHz...UNID., at 08:40gmt.
7374kHz...RADIO CALDONIA., at 10:00gmt.
7430kHz...RADIO SCORPIO, at 09:30gmt.
7489kHz...F.M.T.R., at 09:40gmt.

Conditions today were much improved on the previous few weeks, especially early on. Most stations were audible with the same signal throughout the morning. Many thanks to listeners in Yorkshire, the Midlands, Manchester, Cheshire, Devon, Guernsey and Norfolk who kindly telephoned in their logs on (0253) 882017, between 13:30 and 14:30gmt.

Several listeners reported that at various times, there appeared to be another station underneath Radio Rainbow's signal on 6240kHz., in addition to the various bursts of morse.

We were a little confused about the stations on 6300kHz. Kiwi Radio announced that they were being relayed through Spectrum Leisure Communications, but later on, Radio Orion were heard on that frequency. We believe that all were via the transmitter of Radio Orion.

The unidentified on 7370kHz. was giving out an address in Rotterdam. We are not sure if this was the same transmitter as that on 7374kHz.

Radiotelex tell us that due to pressure from the local post office, they have been forced to set up a "Gesellschaft burgerlichen Rechts" (Company of Civil Rights) under the name of Radiotelex, otherwise all mail would have been returned to sender, marked 'not known at this address'. The correct name is now "Radiotelex GbR" and the address is P.O. Box 10 37 71, 2800 Bremen 1, West Germany. Please note that 'c/o' need not now be used.

WANTED. Information about a station called The Voice Of Love, heard most evenings in the South of England, on 1615kHz., in particular, a contact mailing address. Non-stop music is played, interspersed with the occasional jingle.

RADIO JOYSTICK

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Funky Radio!



Post Office Box 22 03 42
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- Charlie Prince -

Funky Sounds for Central Europe

The WEEKLY

REPORT

ANORAKS

The First with the News in Print

No. 200.....28th February 1988. P.O. Box 539, BLACKPOOL FY1 4RE, England...Price 20p.

When we wrote our first 'notes' on the Irish stations, following the great raids of May 1983, we never realised at that time, exactly what we were starting. The Irish scene was so exciting (we were already selling their station merchandise), that we thought it might be an idea to type up a few notes every now and then, more as a catalogue of events than anything else. First one friend requested copies of them, then another, and before long, people were sending in postage and photo-copying money to get them. By August 1984, we were under pressure to produce something more regular and with issue 15, we decided to print these notes weekly, for those interested. That was 4/5 years ago and with almost 800 subscribers accumulated, we welcome you to Issue 200! Many thanks for the kind things said about WR and the best wishes, and special thanks for the 'congrats' card from Chris.

WEEKLY REPORT & CUTTINGS is produced, printed and posted out each Sunday evening from Blackpool and has been since August 1984. To become a subscriber is simple, it costs the following..... Posted first class to the U.K., or to any E.E.C. country, including Eire, 40p..... second class (within the U.K. only), 35p..... to non - E.E.C. countries which includes Sweden, Finland, Norway and Switzerland, 45p..... to anywhere else in the world, by air mail, 55p. You may subscribe for as many weeks as you wish at the above appropriate rate.

PAYMENTS for anything from A- UK (including Offshore Echo's items), may be made by cash, cheques, postal orders, stamps (the cheapest way, - in 13p and 18p denominations, please), IRC's (the dearest way, unless you have not paid for them!), Access or by Girobank transfer (free for overseas customers). Our Girobank Account is in the name of... B.F. & R. Johnston and the number is... 12 141 6909.

TO ADVERTISE IN WEEKLY REPORT is simple too (and very, very cheap!), send us a copy of what you would like to see printed in its own box within the pages of same, and include the following remittance... £20.00 (a full page), or £11.00 (a half page), or £6.00 (a quarter page). Then, leave the rest to us. Please note: We prefer copy on white paper, if at all possible, although it is not imperative. Simply, the white paper re-produces better.

THE ANORAKS U.K. INFO - LINE: Call this number (0795) 511118 any time, night or day and hear the latest news from the world of free radio. If you have some news for us, then call (0795) 511119 and leave your message after the whistle tone. This service is operated from the south of the country and, as a result, queries about subscriptions or merchandise despatches can not be dealt with from there. All such enquiries must be directed to P.O. Box 539, or (0253) 882017 (during office hours).

"COMMUNICATE 88" is the free radio convention to be held in Blackpool, in September or October of this year, organised by **M.O.A. Promotions** (Monitor, Offshore Echo's and Anoraks U.K.). More details will be forthcoming very shortly, but the event is expected to be held on a Saturday in the Spanish Hall at the Winter Gardens Conference Centre, right in the middle of town, during the world famous illuminations. Accommodation, very close by, will be readily available, if booked early, and an all day bar, snack bar, restaurant, gigantic supervised children's play area, amusement area and much more will be at your disposal. Comments, suggestions, ideas (not enquiries yet), etc. will all be welcome at this stage. Don't say later 'why did they not do this or do that?', say it now and let us know!

THE DATA PROTECTION ACT of 1984 states that we must inform you that all names and addresses are stored on computer disk for the sole purpose of addressing envelopes and packages. Anyone may request that we remove their details, and we must (and will), oblige. However, it must be pointed out that if this is the case, the person concerned must be prepared to expect delays with despatches.

NEW MERCHANDISE. This really is your last chance to buy a **Loop/ Frame Aerial** at the pre-increase price of £28.00. From 1st March, these will cost £35.00. To save £7.00, telephone (0253) 882017 now and ask for one to be put on one side even though you may not get the report until 1st or 2nd March. We will hold this offer open until 5:00 pm on Friday next, 4th March. We really ought to print some testimonials, because each week, we get several letters telling us how good these medium wave receiving aids are. Actually, we know, but it is nice of people to write and report excellent results. Listening to the radio without one does not bear thinking about, as a whole new world of radio opens up. Amazing results have been achieved with their use, so why put up with rubbish, crackle and fizz, when you can have a much cleaner, clearer signal. Do something about it now! Ring our number, you won't regret it. No connections are necessary, so you won't have wires all over the place and it does not use batteries or mains electricity, so it costs nothing to run, once you own it, in fact it saves you money, as it makes stations so loud, you have to turn down the volume, and that saves batteries more than anything else.

NEW ARRIVALS. The post from Italy has gone haywire! Last week, we received **Play- DX Issue 493**, on time, plus 492, in the same post, a week late. This week, we received issue 491, three weeks late.... Anyway, more details about this DX magazine can be obtained from Dario Monferini, via Davanzati 8, Milano, Italy..... After a break of 4½ years! **Caroline Rockshow News** for March 1988. Very active over the past year, the Caroline Rockshow is playing at many places in the South East in the weeks to come. All venues

and details are listed here, along with a bit about the outfit. An SAE will get you a copy, also, and, if you are an up and coming rock band, why not send them a demo tape. Helpers are also needed at the shows, so, why not drop a line to The Caroline Rockshow, Caroline Movement, BCM- BRFM, London WC1N 3XX..... **Short Wave Newsletter, Issue 35.** 6 x A4 sides, always well presented. This issue features, 'bandscan', 'free radio', 'schedules' and a brief general explanation about long distance medium wave DX-ing. 70p will get you a copy, from SWN, 3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford, Essex RM3 0HH..... Apologies to Now Radio for telling everyone that the issue of Now Radio Reports two weeks ago was the last. Apparently two more issues were planned, then Now Radio takes over and becomes weekly. Sorry about the confusion there. **Now Radio Reports, Issue 11** is available and in A5 format, has 16 pages (despite someone trying to fool us into thinking there are 32!!). The general radio news can be found within, along with a rather good piece on page 10, entitled 'Offshore Radio', which looks realistically at the situation as it now stands. All details from P.O. Box 45, Kettering, Northants. NN16 0NW..... **Tom Konard's Aircheck Factory Monthly, Issue 114.** Only a dozen x A4 (ish) pages here, but there's a lot inside this one. Naturally it's all about American radio, and for anyone at all interested, is definitely worth checking out. As well as the magazine, there are regular cassettes produced, of which 'Around The Dial' is the most famous. Send off for details to The Aircheck Factory, Aircheck Acres, Wild Rose, Wisconsin 54984, U.S.A.

TAPE OFFERS. Yorkshire is the first stop in our recordings for this week. Tape 163 features **NLV Radio**, a relatively new station in Keighley, just North of Bradford. This station

operates 7 days per week on the FM band, and features lots of local advertising. Your host for this late morning show from 18th February, is 'Mad Murdoch'.... It's back out to the Ross Revenge for Tape 164, and another chance to hear **Radio Caroline 558**. This time, it is the turn of Richard Lee to be featured, hosting an afternoon programme on 16th February, when the station was using its new aerial system. Richard has since gone on shore leave. Our last recording this week, takes us to Ireland and the border area of Co. Louth, where we hear from **Radio Rainbow**, one of several stations aimed at the Ulster listening area and lucrative advertising market. The presenter on this recording is the well known Big 'O', a very popular personality in this area. The station will not be heard much outside the main area, due to being located on a very busy channel, U.K.-wise (1152kHz.). This recording is taken off FM, but as in many cases, suffers from slight audio distortion. All tapes this week are C.90's and cost £2.00.

CONTACTS: Would Mike, Steve or anyone involved in the former Nottingham based, **Cosmos Radio**, contact Will Rigmaroles on (0602) 233600 for a discussion of matters of mutual interest.

FOR SALE: Free Radio Address List, containing over 280 names and addresses of stations... Price £2, from Ary Boender, Lobeliastraat 33b, 3202 HR Spykenisse, The Netherlands. (Please note: £1 coins will be accepted, securely taped).

FOR SALE: Phoenix Stereo FM Transmitter, 240v, AC operation. Rock solid on 94.2MHz., with exceptional sound quality. (Cost £250.00)... £95.00. Please phone (0803) 313085, between 18:30 and 19:30 for more details. (Please note: It is an offence in many cases to use a transmitter in the U.K., without a licence from the Department of Trade and Industry).

FOR SALE: "Caroline" by the Fortunes. Brand new, on the original English Decca label, No. F.11809, quite rare now.... £8.00. Dept. CE, c/o Anoraks U.K....Tel...(0253) 882017 to check whether sold or not.

WANTED. Any details at all (current address etc.) about Corinthian Electronics, Brawnmayr, Pennsylvania, USA. Transmitter service manuals are being sought, so any help will be appreciated.... Tommy Murphy, 33 Lord Edward Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Eire.

WANTED. The list of Irish allocated broadcasting channels, as we have lost ours.... P.O. Box 539, etc.

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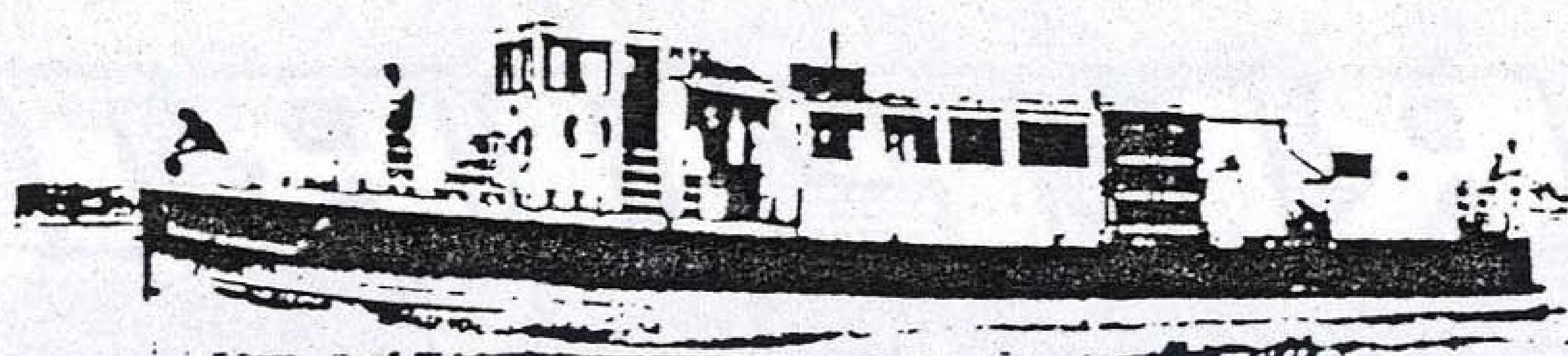
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Prices shown are for high quality cassettes. Reel-to-Reel copies £3 extra. Prices include VAT & P+P. Allow 21 days for delivery. Payment should be by cheque or postal order (made payable to 'TopTrax'). Do NOT send cash or credit cards through the post.

*Price per phrase (max 6 words). Includes separate mixes featuring digital echo and sampling.

NORTH SEA CRUISES.



Enquiries to Project Galaxy, 23 Grove Rd., Grays, Essex RM17 6JY, with regard to bookings and further details.

The Caroline Movement are pleased to announce that they are set to run another of their cruises out to the North Sea on Saturday March 5th. The cruise will take place onboard the CM's own cruise vessel the MV Galaxy, and bookings are now being taken for the trip.

The vessel is scheduled to depart from Strood Pier in Kent at 0800 on the day and the round trip will take around 12 hours. The journey to the radio ship Ross Revenge will take you past the wreck of the USS Richard Montgomery, Shivering Sands Fort, Red Sands Fort and the Tongue Fort. You will also see the Tongue Lightship. If it is a fine day you may also be able to see the Knock John Fort.

The highlight of the cruise will of course be to see the new aerial system built onboard the Ross Revenge following the collapse of the original tower on November 27th last year.

You will be guided on the tour by your host, John Burch, and will be told about the things that you will see during the cruise. Quite apart from the items of interest to the offshore radio enthusiast there are plenty of other things to see too.

The MV Galaxy has full under cover accommodation. There is also a hot and cold food and drink servery so you won't go hungry on your trip. There will also be a souvenir stand in operation for the day selling items of free radio interest.

This is a trip for all the family. You can bring the wife, girlfriend or the children if you wish. The Galaxy is of course fitted with all mod cons including toilets.

GENERAL: We get lots of enquiries from time to time, from people who ask what they can do to improve FM reception at their location. Our frequent FM - DX mentions, no doubt prompt readers to enquire in this way. Space is often a problem with many people, but a simple external antenna can make a definite improvement over the internal one on the set. These are often of the ribbon type, which hang around the curtain rail, or pin up on the wall. Obviously, a roof mounted outside aerial is best of all, but even with one of these, if the signal is coming from a direction other than that in which the aerial is facing, unless it is quite local, the chances of picking it up are quite slim. A masthead amplifier, available at all Radio/ TV shops and often forced upon you when you mention poor reception, is useless in this case, as all it will do is amplify the noise you are getting. An improvement is a rotator, a far better investment than an amp. With this, you can point your aerial to where the signal is coming from. Get your aerial as high as you can. This is important with FM. In fact, we bought a tower, much to the annoyance of our neighbours, for this purpose. It must be a good tower, because the Ross Revenge now boasts the same type on the aft deck, although we feel sure that they won't have neighbour problems! To complete your rig, you could now import a tunable antenna amplifier from America (they still don't seem to be available in this country). This tunes a narrow band only and not the whole lot. With this, you now stand a chance of some good results, and only need some high pressure areas to settle over the country to be in with a chance. Not all high pressure areas bring good FM, we must add, so you may have to be patient. Finally, few aerial firms are interested in your DX problems, you will find, and if you don't want a simple TV or FM aerial, are just not interested, so you may have to end up getting the things and doing it yourself, or getting someone to assist you in setting it up. The simple message is, though... Initially, don't buy a masthead amplifier, invest in a rotator, it will be worth the extra, and get the thing as high as you can. FM aerials are readily available at good radio spares shops anywhere, as are rotators, of which there are many kinds and types, from quite inexpensive to very expensive ones. Elaborate custom made aerials can be obtained from Ron Smith Aerials of 98 Ash Road, Luton, Beds. LU2 9AX... Tel (0582) 36561. Ron will give good advice on FM problems gladly, but will only re-iterate what we have stated above, generally that height and direction are the two main essentials with FM. He has a very good catalogue available, an A4 size SAE should get you one. We also have names and addresses here of tower suppliers, tunable amplifier suppliers (in the USA) and others, if anyone wished to really go to town on the hobby and spend a small fortune. Please feel free to contact us with any queries whatsoever.

Don't forget, if you have a friend, or know someone who would like to receive a sample copy of Weekly Report, there are thousands out there who would, we know, because we keep getting letters with the writer saying he or she has only just found out about us, then let us have their name and address, and leave the rest to us.

Ary Boender is another reader who asks the question, 'what will we write about in WR, when UK and Irish stations are all legal?'.... We think it will be a long time before this is the case, especially with the U.K. As regards Eire, we will no doubt report on the transition, but again, who knows when this will be. We are fairly positive that short wave will continue unaffected, in fact will get more interesting as we reach the peak conditions time in a year or two, making reception very good again. We feel sure many more operators will turn to short wave. We may feature more DX-ing, especially as they tell us that so many more stations are going to be on the air. Who knows? It is all in the future and for now we continue with this week's.....

RADIO STATION NEWS....IRELAND

For the first time since December, FM conditions came up on Monday, as a small high pressure area sank South over the British Isles. An early check on the band yielded Radio London on 94.9MHz., with an excellent signal. A change of aerial direction brought in all the usual Irish stations with excellent stereo signals in many cases. At the top end of the band, noted were.... 104.8MHz., Big 'M' Community Radio from Castleblayney, 105.00MHz., Radio Carousel Navan and 105.2MHz., Radio Dublin, all with good signals. A weak station on 105.5MHz. was thought to have been North Dublin Community Radio, although wasn't identified, and a colleague in Liverpool who received a signal on 106.0MHz., may have been tuned in to Diamond Radio, although again, not for certain. It was a nice change for some FM DX-ing, but alas, very short-lived, as on Tuesday morning, all were gone, bar the strongest. The longer days have had their benefits also, with better reception of some of the further away MW operators in Ireland. Kilkenny Community Radio has been pleasantly audible throughout the week, on 1395kHz., as has ABC Radio from Waterford, on 1026kHz. On 1404kHz., what was thought to be Galway District Radio was also audible, but with a less powerful signal, possibly due to the extra land it has to cross. No identification was noted during our spells of listening, but adverts for businesses in Loughrea (the station comes from a pub here, run by a very popular, Mike Carey) were heard. FM was mentioned also and we understand the station has been on FM only for some considerable time, having bought the medium wave transmitter off Kandy Radio in Ballinasloe last year. The station gave out a contact telephone number, which we noted, then promptly lost! If anyone has the station details, perhaps they could forward them to us. Conspicuous by their absence, Longford Community Radio on 1071kHz., in fact, we have not heard them with their powerful transmissions since the big blow three weeks back. We wonder if they are on low power, or off altogether. Night time listening has been reasonable too, with Radio ERI coming in on the skip, over Boyneside Radio, both on 1305kHz. Mark Edwards has been noted in the evenings, here. From Dublin, evening listening seems to be restricted to Sunshine Radio on 846kHz., with Energy Power 103, second best. The foreigner on each respective channel 'calls the tune', so to speak. After midnight, Energy comes into its own again, as their foreign co-channel operator seems to close down.

DUBLIN. Q 102 have lost one of their 'main' men, Jason Maine, no less. It was thought he would have re-appeared shortly after leaving, on Energy 103, but apparently not so, despite being offered the position. Gone too, is the popular Carol Dooley (remember her from the Breakfast Show with Scott?). Apparently, she has left to join ILR Radio City in Liverpool, as a programme producer for the Johnny Kennedy Show. She starts on Monday 14th March, and we wish her all the best. The revised line-up at Q reads.... 06:00 Scott Williams... 10:00 Gareth O'Callaghan... 14:00 Greg Gaughran... 19:00 Dave Kelly... 00:00 Al Dunne. No newsreaders now, the D.J. reads news, the headline type, hourly, throughout the day, on the half hour. A repeat of last year's highly successful car sticker competition, in conjunction with fast food outlet Abrakebabra, commences tomorrow. Listeners pop into the food outlet and obtain a joint Q/ Abrakebabra sticker which they display in their

cars. At 08:30 each morning, two car numbers are called out and the owners have until midnight to claim a £50.00 prize. So many cars still display the old stickers (ours does!), that these will still count, along with the new ones. £6,000 is at stake in prize money and the competition will run until this money has all been given away. Having just said that this competition was last run in 1987, we were just looking what we wrote in WR 100 and to our surprise, we reprinted the first Abrakebabra/ Q 102 sticker then. This issue was dated 30th March 1986 (My, how time flies!). On the engineering side of things, the 101.9MHz. transmitter has been re-sited and apparently, according to reports, the signal on FM, in stereo is travelling well down the coast from Dublin, which is not always an easy matter, with the Wicklow mountains in the way.



£6000 Cash Giveaway
WIN £100 EVERY DAY from
ABRAKEBABRA & Q102
 Ask for your **FREE Car Sticker**
 when you eat at any **ABRAKEBABRA**
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 window of your car. **TUNE into**
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TWO LUCKY £50 WINNERS
Daily for 8 Weeks

It had been thought that Jason Maine would have taken over the vacant spot left by the departure of Cassidy Jones (for Radio Wyvern, to replace Dave Windsor, who has gone to BFBS in Gibraltar), at Energy Power 103. Instead, his place has been taken by production man, Pat Courteney, who can now be heard on air once again, in the afternoons. Despite the loss of a presenter, the station is sounding very bright and breezy at the moment and of the three 'supers', the preferred one at this location. 'Dublin Today', aired from 18:00 till 19:00 nightly, has been dropped and news has been extended to 23:00 nightly, from 07:00, on the hour. News-readers are Bob Gallico, Lisa Moore and Tina Gates, with Michael Mahon helping out at weekends. Current line up here, reads.... 07:00 Tony McKenzie (referred to on air as just 'McKenzie', for some reason), 11:00 Tim Kelly, 15:00 Pat Courteney, 17:00 John O'Hara, 00:00 Liam Coburn.

As stated, Sunshine 101 have tripled their 'cash calls' and someone is going to answer their telephone with the phrase... 'I listen to the red hot sounds of Sunshine 101' before too long. Listening experts tell us that the £20,000 prize could go during the 'Be-Bop-Gold' oldies show on Sundays, as apparently, the audience at this time is phenomenal.

Things at Southside 95 don't appear all too well and we understand the station is suffering financial problems. David Baker departed a couple of weeks back and resumed as 'main man' at Hugh Hardy's KLAS 98.5 in the city itself. Now, popular breakfast jock, Peter Madison, has left too, with others poised to follow, we believe. We have been unable

to log this station of late, possibly suggesting low power (maybe to save money?) and even last Monday, during good FM conditions, nothing could be heard on 94.9MHz., here in Blackpool.

Co. WESTMEATH. We hear that **Midway Radio** have moved into town from their studios behind O'Brien's Garage in Lynn Road. They can now be found in the shopping Mall in Mullingar and operate in the view of the passing public, behind glass, of course. More M.O.R. music is now featured and Terry Martin is the person in charge. The station can be heard on 99.9kHz., unless, of course, you live where we do, with an ILR on 99.9kHz., 'down the road'.

Co. MONAGHAN. Problems with an incomplete FM tower are causing **KISS-FM** to be missing from the airwaves, we understand. This results from recent storms. However, AM transmissions are reported on air from Saturday, and 100.8kHz. is the channel to watch here. The backers are still confident of an early March on-air date, however, despite all their troubles. **KITS-FM**, although thought not to be back on full power, were fairly blasting in here last Monday, on 100.9MHz., with a quite rocky music format.

Station owner, Frank McCarthy, apparently builds some rather good equipment, and he can be reached on (047) 81040.

Co. CORK. Frank writes from Cork and tells us that he too, found FM conditions good last weekend, particularly on Sunday. He received Q 102 from Dublin (possibly on the new re-sited 101.9MHz. frequency) and ABC Radio from Waterford, the latter crystal clear, FM stereo. He, too, reported that it had all gone 24 hours later!

The Cork news now.... "Since **South Coast Radio** moved to Washington Street, lots of D.J.'s departed also, in fact, at the moment there is no D.J. for the breakfast show. I was in the new studios last week and noted that a lot of work needs still to be done, although they are getting organised; slowly but surely. The studio is situated at the front of the building, looking down on to Washington Street. The day I was in, owner, Romano was on the air (it was early morning, around 10:00am.). He told me that the station is not doing too well financially, but the fact that he has several other businesses, means that he can keep it on the air. He went on to say that he hoped they would get a licence (and I hope so too, as they have been a great substitute for Caroline, to me, since mid November. The current line-up reads... 09:00 or 10:00 till 11:00 Non-stop music, 11:00 Scott Shannon, 14:00 Trevor Stevens, 18:00 Fergal Barry, 20:00 Linda Gray, 22:00 (approx.) till 01:30 (approx.) I say approx. for Romano, because some nights he does not start till later, and often goes on much later too..... **South Coast Radio**, 6 Washington Street, Cork City... Tel (021) 275994.

ERI seem to be doing fine, although I do not listen to them for long periods of time, due to the enormous amount of adverts. They are advertising a blues promotion at the moment, saying that when you hear songs with the word 'blue' in the title, you could win thousands of pounds. As yet, it is still in the promotion stage. Steve O'Neill is on at the moment, in place of Owen Barry - I don't know whether Owen is on holidays or what. The line-up reads... 07:00 Jim Lockhart, 12:00 George Talbot, 17:00 Steve O'Neill, 10:00 Mark Edwards, 02:00 Mark Lawrence. Former ERI presenter, John Blake, is now with RTE Radio 1 and was interviewed in last week's RTE Guide. He does the 'Morning Call' programme on Radio 1, Monday to Friday, from 06:30 until 08:00. He now calls himself John Creedon. It is nice to see somebody from Cork making it to RTE, It is usually the Dublin ones who do it.

In Bandon, **WKLR** are also doing fine, with plenty of adverts, along with their own style of programming. Tapes are still played overnight, however, but at least, are changed regularly. A few weeks ago, in the VOP news, it was mentioned that two Irish voices had been heard, Martin Murphy and Mike O'Sullivan. Two D.J.'s with these names, were both heard on WKLR up to Christmas, so possibly, they are now on this station? Current line-up.... 07:00 Tim Coughlan, 10:00 John Green, 14:00 Paul Sheehan, 18:00 till 07:00 Tapes. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13:00 till 14:00, Jimmy Hayes, live from the Clonakilty studio in De Barra's.

That's all from my location outside Cork City, apart from mentioning **Centre Radio**, who are still broadcasting, although with only low power. Sunshine from Cork, I cannot pick up any more, so, am not sure if they are still on air or not"

Our thanks to Frank for 'Cork Report', maybe the two

VOP D.J.'s will drop us a line to confirm or deny the above. Of the above stations, only ERI broadcast on AM, on 1305kHz. The others broadcast locally on FM only.

Co. LIMERICK. A correspondent to the free radio show on **Radio West**, this morning, said little news was ever heard about Limerick. He went on to list all the activity in the area..... **Hits 954**, by far the most professional station, can be heard on 95.4kHz.AM and 97.6MHz.FM..... **The Sound Channel** are on FM only, 98.7MHz..... **Radio Vera**, the new station which started in early January, are on 96.0MHz.... **Stereo Radio Munster**, sadly depleted of staff since Vera started, are on 98.1MHz..... long established, **Radio Luimni** are on AM, 112.5kHz., and FM 97.0 and 103.0MHz. All the above are located within the town, whilst another two are outside in country areas..... **West Country Radio (WCR)** can be heard rather well on 102.0MHz., from Abbeyfeale and on 104.0MHz from a relay in Ennis..... finally, **West Coast Radio (WCR)** are active from Ennis, although he did not state the frequency. Our last report previous to this one, noted them on 104.1 and 98.0MHz.

LAND - BASED STATIONS.

CHESHIRE? 'Outlook 963' was noted last Sunday evening here, on 96.3MHz., with a massive signal, playing the usual religious tapes.

MERSEYSIDE. Monday, as expected, saw on the air, **Radio Merseywaves** on 124.2kHz. and **Radio Atlantis** on 119.7kHz. with normal programmes. Stephen Bishop was noted on the latter during the morning, but on checking at 13:11, the station had left the air. No reason was known. RMW were heard later to say that it looked as though they may be raided, which suggested Atlantis had fallen victim once again. Apparently, it was a false alarm with RMW, and the station continued, with 'International Sydney' closing down for another weekend, at 04:00. A spot check on Tuesday morning yielded two surprises, both stations carriers were evident at just after 09:00. RMW came to nothing and was no doubt later switched off, as we got tired of listening to a blank carrier, but at 09:50, Radio Atlantis sprang to life with music, followed by programmes from Stephen Bishop, from 10:07 ('making up for lost transmission time'), followed later by Rick Dane till an announced 18:00, possibly later. Due to severe co channel interference after dusk, we were not able to check the station on either Monday or Tuesday, after dark, but it looks as if equipment problems might have been the reason for the early disappearance on Monday. We heard no mentions of any reason on air, but were unable to listen for any length of time.

On Thursday evening, RMW were noted, commencing their long weekend, once more. The station was still playing away in the early hours, but must have closed down later, to return at 09:00 on Friday morning, with normal programmes from Mark Palmer. A number of new names have been noted doing programmes, and several girls now seem to have their own shows. Sometime between checks on Friday afternoon, the station went silent, and despite a good pocket portable, it could not be ascertained as to whether the transmitter was still on air or not. It later transpired that the station suffered a raid from the dreaded DTI, who managed to locate the correct location for the AM rig. For the second time, the DTI, thwarted in their attempts 'to take prisoners', interfered with the transmitter and made it seem as if it had developed an intermittent fault. The 'by now quite wise' operators were not to be fooled by this, and the DTI had to be content with just equipment on this occasion. The station had hoped to resume sometime on Saturday, but nothing was noted at this location, and at the time of writing, nothing at all has been heard on 124.2kHz. Meanwhile, Radio Atlantis surfaced at 10:00 and continued until tea time, their usual cloedown time. The same pattern was followed on Saturday, but instead of closing at tea-time, they continued until later, we understand. Nothing was heard from North Coast Radio, but a logger in the locality tells us that NCR were active, on FM only, on Thursday evening, on 104.8MHz. This transmitter has been in use before. We failed to note these transmissions here. Heard were, Mark Ross, Tony West, Andy Davies and Richie 'C'. According to what was said, it looks like the end of NCR, due to internal disputes.

On Sunday, Radio Atlantis were joined by **Storeton Community Radio**, from mid morning, on 102.6kHz. They continued slightly off channel, causing a hum, but still, with a good signal. They were heard to announce a mailing address... it was... 33 Brookside, Garden City, Deeside,

Clwyd, CH5 2JB. The station appears to be justifying its title, by including lots of community bits and pieces in between the music. Later in the day, at 15:00, these were joined by the regular transmissions from **Veronica 104**, on 104.75MHz., with their well presented shows, until about 22:00. Also noted, just before Veronica came on, at 13:20, non-stop music on 105.25MHz. This ceased shortly afterwards.

MANCHESTER. there is still a lot of activity in and around the city this week. **I.B.C. (The Illegal Broadcasting Company)** (104.4MHz.) were heard on the air last Sunday (21st), and were announcing programming through until 08:00 on Monday morning. However, they began to suffer audio problems, and are reported to have gone off the air suddenly at 01:30 on Monday morning. Announcements were made that the station would be off the air for a couple of weeks, but when they return, it will be on much higher power. One report indicates that a raid took place on the station the previous week, when a large quantity of records was removed, however we have no further details on this. The new station mentioned last week, **WBLS** (102.4) were heard at least three evenings (21st, 25th and 26th) this week, and again this afternoon, Sunday. They were conducting test transmissions. They programme various types of black music, and mention that they are broadcasting from the city centre. Both the above stations were reported to be suffering from a hum on their audio. **F.A.B. FM** conducted a test transmission between 01:00 and 08:00 last Monday morning, on the three frequencies we mentioned last week, 94.2 and 97MHz FM, along with 1017kHz medium wave. Finally **I.C.R.** (103.5) are the only station in the area operating a seven day week, broadcasting reggae and soul to the black community of Manchester. They are not reported to have had any problems this week.

YORKSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE.

The two remaining 'black' music stations continue to operate as normal in Leeds, following the raid on fellow station **ABC FM** some weeks ago. **'New' Horizon FM** (91.8 - stereo) are still operating sporadically during the week, but do not seem to have any specific programmes, and indeed, on a trip to the city, we tried to record the station for a tape offer this week, only to find that they were playing either continuous music, or broadcasting recordings from local clubs, with no station ID's or adverts. When they did finally produce some programmes, as from around 15:00 on Friday afternoon, it was time for us to leave. The D.J. at this time was particularly good, and produced an interesting show. So, it appears as if they still only have a permanent schedule at the weekend. **Music City Radio** (90.3) although announcing stereo, are currently only broadcasting in mono. They have been heard with regular programmes each evening from around 18:00. At the weekend, their regular extensions into the afternoon have also taken place. Both stations have numerous adverts for local businesses, as well as new record releases, not normally heard on the 'legal' stations.

From Scunthorpe, **W.L.N.G.** (104.9), although not heard on 23rd February, were received well on Thursday 25th, with programming commencing at 20:30, with Richard Sellars playing new releases until 21:00. Adverts were heard at this time for a snooker club, general store, and an L.P. called 'Humber Beat'. Following the commercials, Steve Wilson programmed with soul, disco, hip-hop dance music for a half hour, when the adverts were then repeated. Oldies were featured by Stuart Graham, until closedown at 22:35. Advertisers were being sought, and a tape was being offered for sale called 'Pirate Power Tracks'. Stuart mentioned that they might extend their broadcasting hours.

As far as new developments at **NLV** (104.9) are concerned, Monday, 15th, saw a further increase in hours of broadcasting. The usual team of Stevie 'B', Murdoch, Lynne and 'Young' Paul are heard between 07:00 and 18:00, and new specialist music programmes are aired between 18:00 and 21:00, making a total of 14 hours broadcasting time per day. At present, there is no set pattern to the programmes, possibly, whoever is available that particular night, does a show, but new evening programmes noted recently include Stevie 'B' with House Music, Nicholas Nickleby's Rock Show, 'The Non- Stop Top 20' and an Asian music show. More and more ads seem to appear on air daily. Apparently they have had a good response, we are told.

Hull's **Radio Takoradi** (104.9) were active on Saturday 20th February between 17:30 and 19:00, with presenter K.D. At 18:00 there was a break in transmission, but they returned 10 minutes later, with an apology for the fault which was

caused by a spilt cup of coffee. K.D. thanked all the deejays who had sent in applications, and said he would reply to them all as soon as possible. A 24 hour schedule was said to be planned, with all sorts of music being introduced, the first probably being a reggae show. Others will follow.

RENFREWSHIRE. Two stations have been noted in the area this week. The regular **Radio Mercury** (96.1), were heard on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 19:00-22:00, and again on Friday and Saturday evenings between 19:00 and 21:00. **Northside Community Radio** (103.4) broadcast to the Northern area of Glasgow, both yesterday and today, for several hours around the lunchtime period.

LONDON. In the absence of the holidaying 'Sid', reports this week come from a variety of sources.... From South Herts. and Bucks., two reports tell us that on Sunday last, 21st, heard about 23:00, was Claire Mansfield's new rock station, test broadcasting continuous A.O.R. + station I.D.'s. The name was **D.F.C.M.** (using the initials of the two operators Dave Fuller and Claire Mansfield) and the strong signal was heard on 105.5MHz. Also announced, was a medium wave outlet on 954kHz. Full programmes were announced as commencing this Sunday, 28th. An interesting selection of music was played, including some jazzy type of rock, as well as CM's usually heavier stuff. One of their I.D.'s was "The Capital Crusher"! The station looks very promising. **RFM** was active on Monday last, 22nd, at about 23.30. Their irregular mid week broadcasts have been a blessing whilst Caroline has been on low power, the reporter from Herts. adds. The regular Sunday broadcasts for **R - FM** commenced as normal this morning on 94.3MHz.

The area around 102.8MHz., has been a little confusing this week. **WNK** (102.8) have been heard with a weak signal on weekdays. Also heard, but again only on weekdays, has been **ICE FM** (102.8). To make things more confusing, **Galaxy Radio** were heard yesterday on 103.0MHz.

Mark Hattam kindly sends us a little bit of diary/news: 18th. Feb.... **LWR** slid down to 92.05MHz., in stereo, from their previous 92.25MHz. **Time Radio** noted on 103.8MHz., in mono, and **Hits- FM** with test transmissions of continuous music on 105.5MHz., signing off at 00:05.

19th Feb.... **Time Radio** now back in stereo on 103.7MHz. **DBC** heard well in stereo on 96.2MHz. during the evening, till quite late. **Passion** slide up the band to 90.7MHz.

20th Feb.... No sign of **DBC** today, **Raiders** also silent (link receiver problems). **Faze 1** back on 91.0 mono, announcing 90.9MHz. **Hits- FM** complete their broadcasts on 105.5 and close down at 00:15. **Time Radio** were very strong on 103.7. Incidentally, the three Greek stations all positively identified... **LGR** and **GCR** I.D. as those initials, whilst **GrL** identify as "Radiofonikas Londino".

23rd Feb.... **Passion** slide further up to 90.75, now rendering **Sina** generally inaudible over much of the capital, with the exception of Southall! **Time Radio** on 103.8 have a strong signal but very poor scratchy audio (suspect link problem?) **Fresh- FM** slide up to 103.5. **Ice- FM** are very strong, in stereo, on 102.65. Their location is somewhere North East of Alexandra Palace and they were asking for reception reports on their announced phone number.

24th Feb.... **Time Radio** now back to good audio today, on 103.8. A very strong carrier on 106.0 (Jemma?), but no programming noted (possibly already finished?)

Just general notes: **JBC's** left channel is noticeably weaker than the left and has been for weeks. **Traffic Jam** are now more commercial sounding, like **Time / JBC** etc.

After a long period without any **DTI** activity, the expected purge against the 'mega - pirates' began on Friday morning at 08:00, when the transmitter of **Fresh FM** (103.3) went silent. This follows the pattern of recent raids, by tempting the engineer out to have a closer look. On reaching the TX, nothing was found amiss. Three hours later, the TX went silent again, and when the staff arrived at the site, they found police and **DTI** everywhere, and the transmitter ripped out. **Fresh** wasn't the only one to fall prey to the **DTI**, as both **Time** (103.8) and **LWR** (92.2) were both raided twice that day. **LWR** also lost another transmitter yesterday, but are currently back on the air. **Fresh** are also back, but on reduced power. Other stations missing this weekend include **Ram Jam** radio, **Rock to Rock**, **PRS**, **Studio FM**, **Roots FM**, **Raiders FM** and **Hits FM**. No news on raids on these stations is yet available, although it seems probable that many have joined **Time**, **Fresh** and **LWR** in losing transmitters.

Many thanks to Alan, Pete, Mark and Chris for helping in the compilation of this week's London news.

THE MIDLANDS. Last Saturday, 20th, **Asian Community Radio** were heard on 105.6MHz. The signal was weak, but a very hissy stereo, in fact, the first of the Asians to try stereo. Last Sunday, 21st, **Asian Radio Broadcasting** were noted from 15:00 till 16:00. Their jingles announced 105.5MHz. A programme called 'Disco Beat' was heard and the contents were Asian disco music. Announcements, though, were in English. An announced mailing address read.... Disco Beat, 307A Stratford Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham B11 1QS. **PCRL** and **Enterprise** broadcast daily, as normal, with Asians, **ARB** and **MACR** heard every evening. **Enterprise** were missing on Friday, and on their return in the evening, mentioned a location move. Also, **PCRL** were missing today, up until the time of writing, mid afternoon, Sunday. **Powerhouse 105** (105.1) have been heard each evening this week, after 18:00, and broadcast well into the night. Today, **WR** have been on the air today, with their regular 'fourth' Sunday broadcast on 105.2MHz. **Soul City Radio** (103.8) were heard with a much stronger signal today, during their Sunday only broadcasts.

NOTTINGHAM. **Heatwave Community Radio 105** (105.1) has continued a full time operation (24 hour / 7 day) since its one and only raid, although on 24th february at 08:30, the signal strength seemed unusually low. In addition to music, the station has broadcast programmes on black children's education, and church services. These programmes occur on a Sunday. Advertising is still being sought, and a Heatwave Party Night is planned at a local Afro Caribbean centre.

THE OFFSHORE STATIONS...RADIO CAROLINE. Before we start this week's news, reception reports continue to reach us, and a number of them, as well as reporting much improved daytime reception, tell us that the reception at night now, is better than when the station was using the tower, despite being on considerably lower power than originally. Most reports supplied to us using actual signal meters, rather than arbitrary scales, indicate that the signal strength is around 75% of that prior to the mast collapsing, when the station was reputed to be using almost 10kW of power.

As we went to print last Sunday, the station was off the air for unknown reasons, although we suspected that some work was being done on the aerials for the return of a second service. Our suspicions were brought about, after James Day commented about the engineer, Peter, messing about with hundreds of feet of cable. Mid - week saw the fruits of his labours, but more on that later on. Nothing further was heard on Sunday, but on Monday morning, things had returned to normal, and the week started off, with the line - up as we had left it ... 05:00 Peter Philips... 09:00 James Day... 13:00 Richard Lee... 17:00 Robbie Jay... 21:00 Alex... 01:00 Closedown.

A quick call from an enthusiastic DX -er on Tuesday morning, just after 10:00, told us of transmissions of Caroline 558 on 6210kHz. On checking, we too, found these transmissions, although not very strong and rather distorted, caused possibly by other users on this rather busy frequency. A later call suggested that the transmissions were emanating from the Ross Revenge (many transmissions in the past have emanated from Dutch pirates on land, who have simply been relaying the medium wave service). A call in the early evening confirmed the former, as an announcement apologised for the break in transmissions (on 558kHz.), whilst 6210kHz. experienced no such break. The signal disappeared at 17:30. On Wednesday morning (24th), we tried 6210kHz., but this time nothing was audible although 558kHz. was as normal. After much calm weather, this day saw the beginning of a further period of rough seas, with the winds veering around to the North East, the worst possible for Caroline. As the morning progressed the weather must have been gradually getting worse, which seemed odd to us, here in Blackpool, where clear blue skies predominated, for not very much later, the transmitter started tripping out. Comments were made by Peter Philips, about James Day having to be strapped into his seat, in order to read the news. He also told us that it was three years that he first joined Radio Caroline. The tripping worsened as James got into his show, and by 10:30 had got very bad, and he made the following announcement at 10:37 : "If reception of Caroline 558 is getting a bit peculiar at the moment, not to worry. Our new aerial system is not taking kindly to a lot of sleet being poured upon it from a great height. So do bear with us please. We are doing our best". At 10:42, the signal left the air permanently, and nothing more was

heard until 17:55, when the carrier re appeared on 558kHz. At 17:58, the theme tune was played, and Robbie Jay then programmed through until 21:00, and was followed by Alex. Strange oscillating noises were noted throughout the evening on 558kHz., and they have also been heard on other occasions: No reason for these is known. We awoke on Thursday morning to find a staff change (despite the rough weather), and Chris Kennedy hosting the breakfast show, in place of Peter Philips. Fellow Irishman, Steve Conway, had also returned to the ship, after only a short spell on land, and took over reading the Breakfast news bulletins once more. Robbie Jay had moved from his drive - time slot, to mid morning, between 09:00 and 13:00. We had a tune to the shortwave band, to see if the 6210kHz outlet was active, and found it blasting out on this frequency, this time with very clear and crisp audio. Chris Kennedy read the 13:00 news bulletin and was followed by Steve Conway with his own programme. 16:00 on Thursday, saw the news intro being played, but Robbie Jay failed to appear. Steve soon came in with a record, and during the next link commented that 'there was not a lot happening today'. Just before the end of his show, Steve was hit, as carts began to fly around the studio due to the rough seas. The familiar voice which Steve Conway had mentioned was returning to the air at 17:00, turned out to be Steve Masters, who, like Steve, had only been on shore leave for a short period. Steve Masters hosted until 21:00, when American, Alex, began his show. 24 operation was announced, and we were wondering who would be hosting in the early hours. In actual fact, it turned out that Alex hosted until 03:00 on Friday morning, and then Steve Masters did another two hours until 05:00. The early hours of Saturday morning, brought Mike Watts onto the air, and he was again heard early on Sunday morning. Sunday brought interesting happenings on the back deck, with Steve Conway saying that the engineer Mike Watts thought that Christmas had arrived, as their was a large wooden crate to unpack. He later said that the engineers had climbed up to have a look in the crate, and had found another box inside. Perhaps this is the replacement 'through the deck' insulator which has been awaited.

In our area, the shortwave signal seems to hold up well until between 17:00 and 18:00, when it suffers from foreign interference. However it is still audible with difficulty, and does improve later in the evening. As we went to print the shortwave transmitter cut off at 15:50 and has not returned. 558 continues as before. Finally this week, several listeners (including ourselves), have noticed that the quality of the shortwave broadcasts is better than the medium wave, 558kHz., audio quality. 558kHz. seems to be a little bass heavy at the moment, whereas the shortwave is nice and bright. We should like to hear how you are picking up the SW broadcasts in your area, and in particular, what they are like after dark.

SHORTWAVE STATIONS.

Log for Sunday 28th February 1988.

6210kHz...**RADIO CAROLINE 558**, at 08:13gmt.
6218kHz...**PREMIER RADIO**, at 09:57gmt.
6224kHz...**RADIO PAMELA INT.**, at 12:32gmt.
6230kHz...**RIVERSIDE RADIO INT.**, at 13:20gmt.
6234kHz...**RADIO GEMINI**, at 10:36gmt.
6240kHz...**W.L.R.**, at 12:08gmt.
6240kHz...**BOYNESIDE RADIO**, at 13:06gmt.
6269kHz...**RADIO BLONDE PIRATE**, at 09:30gmt.
6271kHz...**SATELLITE BROADCASTING CO.**, at 09:27gmt.
6271kHz...**RADIO LUCE**, at 10:53gmt.
6271kHz...**RADIO WAVES INT.**, at 11:00gmt.
6271kHz...**RADIO SOUTHSEA**, at 12:23gmt.
6280kHz...**RADIO BLOND PIRATE**, at 08:24gmt.
6280kHz...**WESTSIDE RADIO INT.**, at 10:38gmt.
6295kHz...**RADIO KRISTEL INT.**, at 09:15gmt.
6295kHz...**C.L.C.G.**, at 13:20gmt.
6300kHz...**RADIO ORION**, at 10:20gmt.
6300kHz...**W.M.R.**, at 13:15gmt.
6305kHz...**MAPLE LEAF RADIO**, at 09:24gmt.
6306kHz...**B.R.I.**, at 10:02gmt.
6315kHz...**W.M.R.**, at 07:35gmt.
6318kHz...**RADIO MARABU**, at 09:20gmt.
6318kHz...**'CRUISIN' SOLID GOLD**, at 12:14gmt.
6576kHz...**RADIO BRIGITTE**, at 10:01gmt.
6630kHz...**WESTSIDE RADIO INT.**, at 13:09gmt.
6915kHz...**RADIO DUBLIN**, at 10:26gmt.
7428kHz...**GUERNSEY SOUND**, at 10:17gmt.
7428kHz...**RADIO JOYSTICK**, at 11:30gmt.
7490kHz...**RADIO STELLA**, at 12:11gmt.